



ABOVE: A charity biathlon (See page 5)

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2012

Dogs Trust celebrates first anniversary in style Pages 12-13



Making Your House A Home
See Feature on Pages 19-20

National Eye Health Week
Page 23

Christmas Dining & Party Guide
Feature Page 25

POPULAR LUNCHEON CLUB'S SILVER CELEBRATION!



Members of the Cornelly Luncheon Club at their 25th anniversary celebration.
(Photograph by Phil Davis at www.scenicgalleryphotographerwales.co.uk)

Man escapes jail after a town centre car chase

POLICE pursued a motorist for more than 20 minutes, sometimes reaching speeds of more than 100 mph in the Bridgend area.

The chase ended when 19-year-old Gavin Rees crashed into an MG and a Peugeot, causing them both to be write-offs.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Rees, a scaffolder of Apley Terrace, Maesteg, admitted charges of dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking, and driving without insurance.

He was sent to a young offender institution for 10 months, the sentence suspended for 18 months, disqualified from driving for a year, ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work, and to take the extended driving test.

In addition, he was

Crown Court report by AJ SICLUNA

directed to pay £800 costs and was told by Judge Daniel Williams: "You have come as close as anyone to going into custody. Don't blow the opportunity the court has given you."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on May 16, Rees approached a friend, Matthew George, in the early hours and asked for a lift to hospital to visit his pregnant girlfriend.

Mr George agreed, but Rees insisted he drive.

When Mr George refused, the defendant grabbed his keys from the ignition and when Mr George got out of the car, Rees drove off at speed.

The police saw the

vehicle soon afterwards on the Aberkenfig bypass.

"There followed a 21-minute pursuit," said Mr Trigg.

Rees drove at more than 70 mph in a 30 mph limit, refused to stop, and went around a roundabout the wrong way.

At one point, he did more than 100 mph, and went through red lights at 90 mph as he went past the Princess of Wales Hospital.

He headed back along Coity Road at 90 mph and went onto the Brackla bypass at 95 mph, before heading towards Maesteg at 75 mph, where in Commercial Street, he hit speed bumps, lost control and collided with two parked cars, before running off and being caught in an alleyway.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

VOLUNTEERS and members recently celebrated 25 years at a popular local lunch club.

The Cornelly Luncheon Club has been meeting throughout that time on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, with ages ranging from eight to 80.

A three-course meal costs only £3.50 and the club is open to anyone from Cornelly and the surrounding area. To mark their silver

anniversary, they decided to celebrate the Olympics and came up with the idea of having their own 'Olympics lunch'.

With balloons and bunting creating a festive feel, a three-course meal was served up and they finished the

day with a group photograph.

Organiser Marion Hide told THE GEM that the event had been a great success, and thanked all the volunteers who help at the club, and in particular, cook Diana Spanswick.

Island Farm open day

HUT 9, which is the only surviving reminder of the World War Two PoW camp in Bridgend, was open to the public last weekend.

For pictures of the event, see page 7.

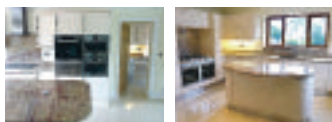
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Vandals and the feelgood factor



A gate damaged by vandals. Will the current 'feel good factor' have an effect? (See letter below).

THE Paralympic Games closing ceremony brought to a close a spectacular summer of sport, a fitting addition to the equally wonderful Diamond Jubilee Year.

How proud the whole of the UK has been of the achievements of Team GB and Paralympic GB.

Locally, we have had the National Eisteddfod and, in a time of belt tightening, over £2,000 was raised at St Illtud's Flower Festival.

Maybe this feel good factor will permeate down to those people who still feel they have to do damage to property to get noticed.

Maybe the new powers the council has regarding anti-social behaviour on the beach,

path and fields, will not be needed after all, and the money saved channelled into positive schemes for everyone to feel part of.

This is the second time this gate (above) on the footpath to the beach has been vandalised. The hasp has been salvaged and handed into the Town Hall to keep the cost of repairs down to a minimum and, who knows, perhaps a kind business with a mobile welder will fix it for us all to use again.

Then we all can walk the foot path for healthy exercise. Please do your bit and clean up after your dogs for the benefit of all and sundry.

Bins are provided, and you should not need telling again and again – because you know it makes sense!

Bill Henderson, St Athan.

THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS

ON behalf of the home produce, floral crafts and children's competitions at the Vale of Glamorgan Show, sponsored by Cardiff Airport, as chairperson, I would like to thank everyone who entered competitions, sponsors, stewards, judges and committee for supporting us.

Our annual raffle made a total of £565.50, which is donated to Breast Cancer Charity, Velindre.

Thank you everyone.
June Studley
Chairperson, Llancarfan.

Show was fantastic

WHILE I agree with Bev Griffiths' recent letter headed 'A show worthy of the West End', I feel I must point out that she had one of the cast listed as Rhian Neil (a girl's name), when his name is Rhain Neil. He played the part of Joe (Jose) Vegas.

I add to her congratulations to Christian Bullen and all the superstars in the making for a fantastic show.

Mrs G Neil, Barry Island.

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Whatever happened to the meals on wheels?

MAY I, through the columns of your newspaper, ask if anyone can explain why the Vale of Glamorgan Council has stopped the meals on wheels service?

This service, carried out by volunteers, was so very much appreciated by the people who used it. It gave them a meal every day and kept them

in contact with the outside world in a lot of cases.

There doesn't appear to be any explanation or notification from the council if this service will be started up again, or completely ended.

In fact, I feel as if the council wants to keep this much-valued service quiet.
C J Hawkins, Colwinston.

Council's response – 'western Vale is a problem'

RESPONDING to Mr Hawkins' comments (above) Lance Carver, head of adult services at the Vale Council, said:

"In December 2011, the Meals on Wheels service in the western Vale was stopped after problems were identified with the cooking facilities.

"The cost of rectifying these problems proved prohibitive.

"Providing the service from alternative premises was considered and is in place, except at the far end of the western

Vale where journey times mean that we have difficulty keeping the food hot.

"Adult Services worked very closely with all the individuals who had been receiving a service to ensure that their needs were met.

"This involved assisting people to choose alternative meal options, other than a delivered hot meal.

"If anyone has a concern about the welfare of any individual, we would like to hear from them so that we can ensure that their needs are met.

NEW STORE: concern over traffic chaos in Barry

IT is just two weeks until the new Sainsbury's store opens at Romilly School, Barry.

As work progresses towards opening, I would like to ask whether a 'traffic management plan' was prepared, presented and agreed as part of the Assembly's decision to allow this development to proceed? Was a full 'risk assessment' produced as part of this plan?

I am extremely concerned that traffic chaos will soon ensue – traffic coming off the roundabout at the bottom of Jenner Road heading in to Park Crescent cannot be allowed to turn right in to the new Sainsbury's car park.

It will be crossing the stream of traffic coming 'up' Park Crescent and will tail back to the roundabout. It will also be crossing the 'up-bound' stream of traffic right in front of (less

than 20m) the light-controlled pedestrian crossing to Romilly school.

Similarly, traffic exiting the Sainsbury's car park and wanting to turn right 'down' Park Crescent will be a traffic nightmare to both vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

I would like to request that the opening of this store is delayed until a suitable traffic plan is in place and that this should contain a 'No Right Turn' for traffic coming off the roundabout, and a 'No right Turn' for traffic exiting the Sainsbury's car park.

The petition, signed locally by thousands against this development, and the local planning authority's decision to refuse the development were correct. The over-turn of the decision by the Assembly means that they must now take full responsibility for the probable forthcoming traffic nightmare.

Mr Geoffrey Jones, Barry.

Praise for the Lords' debates

IN a recent letter to The GEM, C N Westernman of Brynna, writes that the Conservatives' reluctance to reform the House of Lords along the lines proposed by the Deputy Prime Minister is accountable to some form of opposition to democracy.

Nothing could be further from the truth:

"The House of Lords is made up of very talented men and women, all with great experience and expertise to offer the nation, including Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, a medical specialist who works at Velindre Hospital, and Baroness Grey-Thompson, an esteemed Paralympian.

The expertise on display in their Lordships' excellent debates – some of the finest to be seen in any legislature in the world – is astounding.

and allows them to scrutinise Bills in tremendous depth.

An elected House of Lords would be in direct competition with the House of Commons. Under the status quo, the Commons can justly claim primacy over the upper house, on the grounds that they have greater democratic legitimacy.

If, however, a Labour majority in the elected upper house wanted one thing and the Conservative Government in the Commons wanted another, who would win out?

Ultimately, of course, it must be borne in mind that the decision to withdraw the House of Lords Reform Bill was the result of democracy: the democratically-elected members of the House of Commons, the representatives of the people, would not countenance it.

G R Scott, Barry.

'Our son's balloon landed in Germany!'

IT was our son's first birthday and we had a get-together over the bank holiday weekend.

After the party, we went into the garden and let off a balloon, with our son's name, Owen, and address on it; and asked whoever found it, to post it back to us, we would like to see

how far it went.

We received the balloon back over a week later.

A Belgian couple had found the balloon while on holiday in Germany, in the town of Musweiler.

We later worked it out, and the balloon had travelled 550 miles! **Carly and Karl Burt, Barry.**

Jobs hopes just 'wishful' thinking?

WELL done, Coun Fred Johnson, chairman of the Vale's planning committee ('Councillor says the Waterfront consortium must deliver local jobs', The GEM, September 6).

However, the headline belies the contents of the article, which says he "hopes" the consortium will involve as many local people as possible.

Quite a difference between a mandatory injunction and wishful thinking.

This is important because employers will always choose the best people for the job – local or otherwise – in the

light of their economic interests; i.e. the profit motive.

Coun Johnson is overlooking a phenomenon general to the whole of Britain; workers from all EU countries have the right to live and work here.

They are often better educated, more dedicated and willing to work for low wages, either at the minimum wage, or just above.

So, Coun Johnson can "hope" as much as he likes – the reality may well be different.

He should ask himself why employers in Britain choose to employ non-British EU workers, rather than natives.
Christopher Short, Barry.

'Get tough over 'disabled' parking

READERS of The GEM will know how much I sympathise with Keith R May (Letters, September 6).

The policing of the use of disabled parking spaces in Cowbridge, particularly outside the Tesco store, is little short of a disgrace.

I, too, have watched an officer walk by without so much as a glance

at the windscreens of parked vehicles; and, of course, the problem of delivery and trade vehicles often monopolising these spaces for much of the day continues.

I once remonstrated with a van driver – to be met with a mouthful of abuse.

Mr May is correct, a much more aggressive stance is needed.

D W Gerrard, Cowbridge.

'Blame it on the politicians'

MANY of us would have read stories about the pay-offs that some council officials have received after leaving office.

One female chief executive, who had only been in the position for 20 months, picked up a whopping £500,000-plus pay-off. Other officials have walked away with £100,000 pay-offs, and jumped straight back

into another job.

And let's not forget the politicians: it's politicians who are ruining this country, not the people – and they are all richly rewarded.

It has been stated that the pay-offs were deserved due to the efficiency savings made.

I suppose they mean the cuts, job losses, pay freezes and reduced hourly wages.

D J Radford, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 20)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
13 Thur	05.11	8.2	17.28	8.3
14 Fri	05.54	8.8	18.11	9.3
15 Sat	06.32	9.4	18.50	9.8
16 Sun	07.12	9.9	19.28	10.3
17 Mon	07.48	10.2	20.05	10.5
18 Tues	08.31	10.3	20.49	10.4
19 Wed	09.12	10.3	21.31	10.2
20 Thur	09.53	9.9	22.13	9.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Wildmill burglar caught after leaving phone at crime scene!

A 23-YEAR-OLD man who burgled the home of a disabled person and removed two safes, has been jailed for 18 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Leslie Williams (23) of Maes-y-Felin, Wildmill, Bridgend, had been convicted by Vale Magistrates for burglary and committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said Williams burgled the Maes-y-Felin flat of the victim while he was out visiting a friend.

He said two safes were removed from a wall and items, many of sentimental value and cash, altogether worth £1,300 were taken.

The following day, said Mr Greenwood, the brother of the defendant told the victim the safes were "down by the river". They were found in bushes and had been opened.

Fingerprints of the defendant were found, and the disabled victim later found Williams' mobile phone in his bedroom.

When arrested, Williams said that he was not involved, but later said: "It was only a joke".

The victim told the police he suffered ill-health and no longer felt safe in his home, and had not been eating properly.

Williams' counsel, Meirion Davies, said: "He committed the burglary with three others. He had been drinking, and there was an element of planning."

"He is not a man overburdened by his intellectual capacity."

He said he was on medication for a condition and on the night concerned, had not taken it.

He was, said Mr Davies, prepared to name others involved, and the items he stole had been returned.

RESIDENTS MEET TO MARK PARC SLIP MINING DISASTER



The annual meeting takes place to mark the anniversary of the Parc Slip mining disaster that took 112 lives in 1892.

Last Sunday morning (August 26), at exactly 8.20am, a group of local people met as usual to mark the 120th anniversary of the Parc Slip explosion that took the lives of 112 men and boys from Aberkenfig.

On August 26, 1892, an explosion was heard from within the mine, apparently

caused by a hole in one of the workers' Davy lamps.

Rescue attempts were hampered by roof falls, but 42 miners were brought out alive, some of whom later died of their injuries.

Neville Granville led a short period of reflection upon that event and its impact on the present day, as it is held every year at 8.20am, in line with the explosion 120 years ago.

Attendee Byron Butler told The GEM: "The 'regulars' were supported by Couns Clive James and Pauline James, and Janice Gregory AM. Their presence is much appreciated."

"We meet for about 20-25 minutes. It's not religious but ceremonial and reflective."

"We get the fountain going, which is made of 112 stones to represent those that were killed."

Maesteg man's cannabis factory in council flat!

POLICE who raided a council flat in Maesteg, found 56 cannabis plants growing, with a potential crop worth £17,000, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Callum Poole (22) of Bridgend Road, Maesteg, was jailed for 51 weeks, suspended for two years, made subject

to a supervision order and ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work.

He admitted a charge of producing cannabis.

Prosecutor John Warren said he was growing the drug for his own use, but there would have been some sharing with friends. The total yield was 2.79 kg.

His counsel, Byron Broadstock, said he had

spent £100 a week on cannabis.

Fortunately, he said, he had not tampered with the electrical supply and was caught before the drugs could be harvested.

It was the first time he had committed such an offence. Since a teenager, he had been using cannabis.

"He now realises his actions have had serious consequences, and he has been evicted from his home by the local authority because of what he did."

He said the search took place about a year ago, and he had the anxiety of not knowing his fate for that length of time.

"He has been in limbo, unable to obtain employment."

He said the operation was Poole's, and Poole's alone, and he was now on the 'police radar', and they would keep a close eye on him.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said the set-up to produce the cannabis was on a significant scale, with a degree of sophistication, and the yield would have been considerable.

"You seem to think it's alright to produce and smoke cannabis. You need to understand that the consumption of cannabis is against the law, and the production of cannabis is against the law."

"Those who smoke and produce it are often likely to go to prison."

Calls for new patient service to be expanded

NEWS that a team of community medics and nurses within Bridgend county borough is now fully operational has been welcomed by Suzy Davies, Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West.

However, she has urged health chiefs to fund the extra money needed to make the team of doctors and nurses into a seven-day model, otherwise the aim of reducing unnecessary hospital admissions may not be fulfilled.

In response to a series of Freedom of Information requests submitted by Mrs Davies, the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg health board states that the Community Integrated Intermediate Care Services (CIIS) team in

Bridgend saw an increase of 80 per cent in the number of patients referred to it by GPs from April 2011 to March 2012.

They dealt with 229 referrals, and also carried out 872 interventions.

At the moment, support staff work seven days a week from 8am to 10pm, visiting patients in their own homes. Professional staff, including doctors, work Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm.

An appraisal is currently under way into whether to expand all community resource services, including CIIS, into a seven-day model.

This will depend on whether doing this would be of benefit financially by keeping people out of hospital and in their own homes.

The board added that the work of the CIIS team was drawn to the

attention of GPs in a series of meetings held at their practices, by distribution of posters and by giving each doctor a reminder of the fact that the team can be used to treat suitable patients, instead of sending them to hospital.

Mrs Davies said: "When Maesgwyn hospital was being closed last year, I met health chiefs and was told that it was intended to redeploy staff and resources freed up by the hospital closure into the CIIS team."

"I was told that treating people at home was the way forward for suitable cases, rather than have people needlessly sent to hospital and I would agree with that."

"Most people, especially the elderly, would prefer to stay in their own homes but this can only happen if there are sufficient resources available to provide an

effective service.

"I hope that they will move towards a seven-day-a-week operation for the doctors and nurses on the team, including consultant cover."

"I realise that this will take additional resources at a time when ABM is being asked to save £45 million out of its budget this year by the Welsh Government in Cardiff."

"However, if providing these extra services saves money in the long run and also keeps patients safe, and that's the key point, then it seems a sensible use of resources to me."

ABM Health Board and Bridgend County Borough Council issued a joint response, which stated: "Bridgend county plans to integrate all of its community health and social care services

for older people and people with a physical disability."

"The development of our community intermediate care services is just one part of the picture."

"We are very proud of the services available within Bridgend county and strive to support people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible."

"We have a good track record in delivering innovative forms of support, such as telecare, which has to date supported over 1,000 people."

"In addition, we recently opened a new facility within Bryn y Cae residential home that is helping people to regain their independence following a hospital stay."

COMIC PLAY

Dyad Productions will present the comic play 'The Diaries of Adam and Eve' at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on September 20.

Based on the works of Mark Twain, it is directed by the Olivier Award-winning Guy Masterson and performed by Rebecca Vaughan and Elton Townend Jones

VILLAGE SHOW IS A SUCCESS!

THE recent Colwinston Village Produce Show proved to be a big success.

More than 110 entries in 20 different classes were assessed by the judges, Peter Evans, Sheila Madge, and Helen Payne.

Colin Howells won several first and second prizes for vegetables, while Janet Thomas received lots of first prizes and was given the prestigious award of 'Best In Show 2012'.

Hannah Miles, Hilary Jones, Kathy Kettle, Dolores Howells, Heather Simmonds, Illian James, Noni Bates and Debbie Lewis were among the winners with varied entries, vegetables, paintings, herbs, flower arranging, baking, and jam.

The Broadbent family had almost a

clean sweep with pot plants and the Hawkins family, Bob, Mo, Kate, Robbie, Laura and Sophie took many prizes.

Kyle Azzopardi won best in show in the children's section and was presented with the trophy, kindly provided by Peter Evans.

A total of 17 children from the local playgroup and school entered the painting competition 'In my Garden' and they all had a winner's certificate.

KJ

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

Charity concert
THE 30th annual
charity concert by
Ogmore Valley
male voice choir
this weekend
includes a number
of guest artists.

Soloist Rhydian Jenkins won the Bridgend Young Singer of the Year's junior section in 2009 and 2011, was an Urdd junior eisteddfod winner in 2011, and Welsh National Eisteddfod winner this year at Llandow. Ifan Jenkin was an Urdd junior winner (piano) in 2011 and is also a member of the choir 'Only Boys Aloud'.

The compère is Boyd Clack and the concert is being held at Canolfan Bethlehem, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale on Saturday, September 15 at 7pm and it is raising money for the Y Bont charity. Tickets can be obtained from John on 01656 8414290, or any choir member.

Judo club
Ogmore Valley Judo club is holding a table top sale to raise money to support young members on Saturday, September 15 at Ogmore Vale Life Centre, from 10.30am; table £6. Telephone 01656 840922, or 07857713597.

School funding
Tynrhyl primary school, Llangenor, has obtained funding for a learning support officer to provide extra maths tuition for pupils. This new role will be performed by Mrs Nicola Lodwig, for the next two terms.

The school will have a number of extra-curricular clubs during the autumn term, starting on September 24. These include guitar lessons,

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



learning to appreciate the environment and music club which, hopefully, will form the school choir to perform over the Christmas period.

Choir celebrates
Côr Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male choir) is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a special concert on Friday, September 28 in the Tabernacle chapel, Meadow Street, Pontycymer at 7pm.

The choir was formed on August 30, 1962, in Blaengarw ambulance hall. The first musical director was Ieuan Rhys Williams, and the first piece of music the choristers learnt was "O! Peaceful Night".

Amazingly, three of the original members are still in the choir - Ray Patterson, Gwyn Jones and Trefor Evans.

Tondu history
ANYONE who would like to learn more about the history of heavy industry in this area during the industrial revolution, should go along to open days at Tondu ironworks and the Wesleyan Methodist church on September 14-15.

The church was paid for by the owners of the ironworks, for employees caught up in the religious fervour that swept the country at that time.

Staff changes
Tondu primary school,

Aberkenfig, has changes in the staff room: Miss Jones is the new deputy Headteacher, and Mr Sullivan will be teaching Ogwr class, while Mrs Williamson is returning following maternity leave.

On Thursdays between 9.45am-11.15am, parents can bring young children along to "Tondu Toddlers" in the Heol Persondy building where youngsters learn to socialise with their peers.

It is hoped the school will be able to hold its sports day on September 18 for pupils in KS2 stage; this was cancelled in the summer term because of the wet conditions.

The foundation classes will be holding their sports day on September 20; During the autumn term there will be a number of extra-curricular activities.

Representing Wales
Côr Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley ladies choir) will represent Wales at celebrations marking the liberation of the city of s-Hertogenbosch from the Germans by the British 53rd (Welsh) Division between October 24-27 1944. The choir will be travelling by coach and ferry to Holland on October 23rd.

On October 24, the choir will be singing at a service of Remembrance

in Arnhem Cemetery. On October 25, it will perform at a concert in the De Taling Home, and on October 27 will lay a wreath during a Remembrance service at the Welsh monument in s-Hertogenbosch, and sing a World War 2 Requiem with the city's Liberation choir.

In the evening, the choir will again perform with the Dutch choir in a concert, concluding with the Welsh and Dutch national anthems.

Carers' centre
Bridgend Carers' Centre is situated at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479).

Tomorrow, September 14 at 10.30am-12.30pm a new course gives carers detailed information about what help and support is available, carers' rights, and offers an opportunity to meet others.

On September 19 at 10am-12 noon, there will be a legal advice surgery with a representative from Howells Solicitors. Telephone the above number to book an appointment. The community café will be open between 12.30pm-3.30pm.

On September 20, at 10am-1pm, the Outreach group will be at Maesteg Civic Offices, with a

representative of the Citizens' Advice Bureau to assist carers. At the centre between 1pm-2pm there will be a Body Blitz session with Darija. Phone number above to book a free place.

On September 21, there will be a guided tour of the historical town of Caerleon. The coach departs at 9.30am from Hope chapel, Bridgend and costs £3. Telephone Paula on the number above for full details..

Aberkenfig, Charity Concert

Church appeal
Tomorrow, September 14 at 7pm in St John's Church, Aberkenfig, there will be charity concert to raise funds for the damage caused by metal thieves to St Bride's church, Llansantffraid.

Entry is £5 at the door and entertainment will be provided by Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch (Boys of Coytrahen & District) male voice choir.

Jam Clubs
These provide an opportunity for children to meet and play with others in the same age group, where they can enjoy games, crafts, competitions, listen to stories, and have sing-along.

The mini jam session is between 5.30pm-6.30pm, for ages 5 to 7; the middle jam is between 6.40pm-7.50pm, for ages 8 to 11; and the big jam is from 8pm-9.15pm, for ages 12plus.

They are being held on Wednesday evenings during school term time only at the Church of God, New Street, Aberkenfig.

Porthcawl Art Society autumn exhibition



Peter Martin's 'The Dipping Bridge, Merthyr Mawr'.

THE autumn exhibition has opened, and some unusual paintings are now on display in our gallery, a spokesperson reports.

Despite the gloomy, wet summer, it has not stopped the painters from using the time to create some colourful work to cheer the visitors to the town.

First, Clive Callen's painting of 'The Orphan' was chosen as the most popular work - a heart-tugging story of a Siberian tiger cub rescued by a man who raised it until fully grown, with the heart-breaking decision to let it go to Minnesota Zoo.

Second was Peter Martin's painting of the Dipping Bridge, Merthyr Mawr.

Lydia Nicholson's 'Comparing sizes' was placed third.

The gallery above the museum in John Street is open most days, but we have all missed going out in the street with our colourful array of paintings. We enjoy talking to the visitors and holidaymakers who are always able to as for any information on learning to paint.

We have also welcomed some new members this summer, and as a charity, we welcome budding artists and small school groups, etc, to come and see us and get advice.

Hopefully, the weather will improve and we will be having our street display as usual.

The gallery above the museum is open from 11am-4pm weekdays and Saturdays, and admission is free.



Lydia Nicholson with her painting, 'Comparing Sizes'.



Lydia Nicholson with her painting, 'Comparing Sizes'.



Clive Callen with his painting, 'The Orphan'.

WOMAN (39) DENIED THEFT CHARGE 12 weeks' jail for a charity shop worker

THE assistant manager of a Barry charity shop wept in the dock at Cardiff Crown Court when she was jailed for 12 weeks for theft.

Joanne Mathias (39), of Aneurin Road, Barry, had been found guilty of two charges of stealing £600 from the British Heart Foundation.

She was found not guilty of one charge of stealing £250.

Prosecutor Eugene Egan said the thefts occurred over a period of three weeks, when Mathias was working at the charity's Holton Road shop.

He said that she failed to pay in the £600 to a bank. Mathias denied the charges and said the money had been paid in. Her counsel, Meirion

Report by AJ SICLUNA

Davies, said at the time she had financial problems which had resulted in a breakdown of her marriage. She was currently employed and had told her new employer of her current position, and they were fully supportive of her.

At present, said Mr Davies, her life was chaotic and she was having accommodation problems.

The case, she said, had not been a pleasant experience for her and had caused her great stress.

"She has lost her good character and it is extremely unlikely the Court will see her again."

But, said Recorder David Miller, the case

involved stealing from a charity: "This was in the course of your employment when you had a significant degree of trust placed in you to bank the day's takings. Twice you failed to do so, and helped yourself to the money."

The charity, said the Recorder, relied on charitable donations and the public obviously placed trust in her.

"It was not the largest amount, but your crime cannot be measured financially," he said.

He said the custody lines had been crossed, and she had chosen to deny her wrongdoing.

"You have shown no remorse for what you have done," he added.

He said the charity put donations into research, and he had a duty to pass a prison sentence.

Paralympians fight through second week

FOLLOWING the three medals secured by Bridgend Paralympians Aled Davies (gold and bronze) and Paul Davies (bronze) last week, there were still some of the county's Paralympians fighting it out during week two of the showpiece event.

Unfortunately, Aled's training partner and close friend Nathan Stephens couldn't replicate the shotput and discus thrower's performance in the final of the F57/58 javelin as he came in 10th.

The 24-year-old reigning world champion saw two controversial foul throws wreck his Paralympic dream, and his final throw of 33.10m was not enough.

The jury of appeal later reinstated his sec-

ond throw of 37.09m that saw him climb from 12th to 10th in the rankings.

Wheelchair fencer Gemma Collis (19) was part of a trio who finished eighth out of eight teams in their part of the competition, alongside Justine Moore (20) and Gabi Down (just 14). They fell to defeat against much more experienced teams from Hong Kong, Russia and France.

It wasn't a great tournament for the Team GB five-a-side football team either, but they picked up their first win of the Paralympics in the seventh/eighth place play-off - 2-0 over Turkey.

Defender Keryn Seal was on target from a short corner after four minutes as the team ended the event on a high, and now begin to look towards the Euro 2013 championships next year.

Crash: police appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses, following a collision that occurred at 8.20pm on Wednesday, September 5, on the B4265 Llantwit Major at the junction with Pentre'r Cwrt.

A blue Suzuki GSX R 600 motorcycle driven by a 28-year-old man was travelling east on the B4265 Llantwit Major in the direction of St Athan when the collision occurred at a mini roundabout.

The rider of the Suzuki motorcycle was conveyed to Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, by ambulance where he was treated for multiple injuries.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the South Wales Police roads policing unit in Lakeside, Swansea, on 01792 456999, on 101, or Crimestoppers (free) on 0800 555111.

Porthcawl biathlon raises cash for local brain injury charity

Report and photographs by Frank Shipton.

07790 882925
or 01656 710454



ABOVE:
Remy Rock.

A PORTHCRAWL man is organising a series of charity events to help a Bridgend brain injury charity – and the latest took place last Thursday (September 6).

Competitors took part in a 5.6km biathlon on the sea front at Porthcawl to raise funds for 'Headway Bridgend' – a charity that works with people who have suffered brain injuries.

It was organised by Nigel Bedford of Porthcawl, and was dedicated to the memory of his son, Gavin, who was died tragically two years ago in an industrial incident.

Nigel Bedford told the GEM that the fundraising was helping him deal with the trauma of losing Gavin.

He said that he had chosen Headway because, although Gavin suffered a massive head injury and died instantly, for those who do survive similar accidents, the work of the charity is vital.

Headway helps with therapy, rehabilitation, supporting the family of people with a head injury, and all aspects of dealing with what is always a traumatic situation.

The race consisted of a run along the lower promenade from the RNLI shop and back, and then a cycle race to the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, and then circling back to finish at the harbour. The race was won by Greg Hill, of Porthcawl, with the runner-up Jason Stretch, also of Porthcawl.

Coming in a creditable third was St. John's School pupil,



ABOVE: Jason Stretch.



ABOVE: 'Doing the Mobot'.

Remy Rock.

Nigel Bedford took fourth place, and told The GEM that a number of fundraising events were in the pipeline.

He said: "There will be an event with local bands playing live at the Hi-Tide Inn in December, at a date that is not finalised yet."

"We had intended that this month there would be a 'row across the Channel' from Ilfracombe to Porthcawl, but this has had to be postponed."

"That will definitely happen next year."

Mr Bedford said that the fundraising for Headway Bridgend would continue for some time, and said that anyone wanting to get involved could contact him on 07949 337371.



ABOVE: Nigel Bedford (in yellow) with competitors at the finish.

700 APPLICATIONS FOR 140 'PARTNERS' Rush for jobs as Waitrose confirms store opening date

by PHILIP IRWIN

WAITROSE has confirmed that it is on schedule to open a new foodstore in Cowbridge on November 1.

The chosen opening day, a Thursday, is just after the town Festival of Food and Drink, which is on the weekend of October 27/28.

The company recently announced that it had become a sponsor of the festival.

In a statement, Waitrose said that it had received more than 700 applications, many from Cowbridge, for the 140 jobs that will be created at the 14,379 sq ft store.

A spokeswoman said: "The window has now closed and group interviews are being carried out in the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge."

"The successful candidates will then start their training on October 15."

All new employees will become partners in the John Lewis Partnership, entitling them to a share in profits in the form of an annual bonus.

This year, every employee received 14 per cent of their annual wage in bonus, the equivalent of seven weeks pay.

The Cowbridge branch manager, Rob Waite, said: "Our policy is to recruit locally and give the shop a real local identity, so we are delighted that we have been able to attract this level of interest from the

area. Having wanted to open in Cowbridge for a long time, it is encouraging that there seems to be genuine excitement about our arrival and we can't wait to play our part in contributing to the future success of the town when we open in November."

As sponsors of the festival, Waitrose will have a presence at the event, and will be showcasing its produce.

Polly Wilson of the food festival told The

GEM: "We were delighted when Waitrose became a sponsor."

"They won't be selling on the festival site, but they will have a prominent stall in their capacity as sponsor, offering tastings and demonstrations."

Rob Waite said: "We are looking forward to showcasing some of our fantastic food and drink over the weekend."

"We're really looking forward to opening in Cowbridge and the event will be a great opportunity to introduce our brand and meet shoppers in the town."

Autumn at the Berwyn Centre

The Berwyn Centre has launched its new autumn schedule this month – which includes a number of new options on offer, including a 12-week 'introduction to counselling' course.

If you're thinking of training to become a qualified counsellor, or would just like to improve your communication or people skills, this could be for you.

Over the duration of the taster course, a range of counselling approaches and skills will be covered, followed by an assessment based on practical use of the skills learnt on the course.

A range of learner

styles will be accommodated for and no prior learning or qualifications are required for enrolment. The full course costs just £6.25 per person and will take place at the Berwyn Centre every Tuesday, 7pm-8.30pm. Enrolment begins on September (to start the course on September 25).

Other new activities include a men's circuit class and a variety of craft-making workshops. The centre will also see the return of many popular activities.

Go online at www.bridgend.gov.uk/b erwyn for more information, or call 01656 754915.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

MAN (27) 'WRACKED WITH GUILT' FOR 11 YEARS

Teaching assistant banned after sex offence admission

A TEACHING assistant has been "haunted by the memory and wracked with guilt" after carrying out a sex offence when he was a teenager.

Alexander Clarke, 27, of Croft Goch Gardens, Kenfig Hill, pleaded guilty before Vale Magistrates to a charge of indecent assault and was committed to Cardiff Crown Court for sentence.

He was made subject to a three-year community order involving three years' supervision, to take part in a sex offenders' programme, and he was banned from working with children under 18 for life.

He was also ordered to register as a sex offender for five years, and was also made subject to a sex offenders' prevention order for life.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said he was sentencing him on the basis that it was an isolated incident.

He said people spoke extremely highly of Clarke's dedication and enthusiasm. There was no evidence of him having behaved inappropriately to children who had been in his care.

Prosecutor Nicholas Gedge said the assault took place in the Porthcawl area sometime in 2001, when Clarke was 16 and the victim was nine.

He approached her, put his hand up

her dress, into her underwear and touched her genital area.

"He told her not to tell anyone. She didn't say anything, because she thought she'd get into trouble," said Mr Gedge.

This year, the girl had a chance encounter with Clarke and told friends what had happened. He telephoned her and apologised, saying he knew what he had done was wrong.

He was arrested and told the police: "My life is ruined, my job has gone."

He said he had been haunted by the memory and was wracked with guilt.

The victim, said Mr Gedge, had been greatly affected by the incident, and did not like men close to her. She said she would block out what had happened by getting drunk and for a long time had blamed herself for what had occurred.

Clarke's counsel, Owen Williams, produced several testimonials.

"He knows the Court's sentencing powers, and could very well lose his liberty. But there is an alternative to custody."

He said he had pleaded guilty at the first opportunity and the Court should bear in mind his youth and immaturity at the time.

"He has lost his job and his life will never be the same. He appreciates his wrong-doing."

Man threatened a friend with kitchen knife – court is told

A MAN who armed himself with a kitchen knife and threatened to kill a friend, has been sent to a young offenders institute

for 10 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Shaun Jenkins, 20, was told by Judge Daniel Williams: "You have a number of problems which need addressing."

Jenkins, of Mill Meadow, North Cornelly, pleaded guilty to making threats to kill and possessing drugs.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on April 22, Daniel Pount, a friend of Jenkins, went to his home to borrow a vacuum cleaner.

Jenkins was having an argument with his girlfriend, became upset and wielded a kitchen knife in the direction of Mr Pount saying: "Come here, come here."

He added: "I'm going to ***** kill you and put this knife through your head."

Mr Pount retreated and called the police.

Jenkins said Mr Pount had walked in uninvited and that he had no intention of carrying out his threats.

On June 8, the police stopped the defendant in North Cornelly and he was found to be in possession of methadone and cannabis.

He was said to have previous convictions for affray, and to be in breach of a community order for theft.

His counsel, Hugh Wallace, said he accepted he took part in a frightening incident, though it was not the most serious of his kind.

Clearly, said Mr Wallace, the defendant had problems.

Said the Judge: "There was no justification for you to pick up a knife and threaten to kill a friend. It was a significantly aggravating feature."

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PG

Exhibition celebrates the magic of Merlin

Garw Valley inventor, harp maker and craftsman, Merlin Maddock, is showing just a few of his unusual creations at Bridgend town centre, in an exhibition that runs until September 29.

The exhibition is in the Celtic Camera Centre, in Caroline Street.

Merlin intends to be

Photographs by GLYN EVANS

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.

there in person each day between 12pm and 4pm to answer questions. Entry to the

exhibition is by a donation to the Parkinson's UK charity.



YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Choir news

KENFIG Hill and District Male Voice Choir got their autumn term off to a flying start with a Country and Western night in the Green Acre Motel, Cornelly.

There was a wonderful atmosphere and with Dave Reilly providing the music, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

After concerts in many parts of the UK during the spring and summer months, the choir traditionally returns to its roots to sing at local venues, during the autumn. The first of these was on September 10, at the newly-opened Llys Ton care facility which is on the site of the former Troed y Ton.

This concert had many memories, as the choir gave the last concert in Troed y Ton before it closed, and it was also where the choir performed its first concert more than 40 years ago.

At the end of September, the choir express their thanks to the patrons and vice presidents, at the annual patrons' night concert, which will be held in the Grove Golf Club.

Following this, the choir will make its third appearance at the annual concert to mark the launch of the Poppy Appeal in All Saints Church, Porthcawl. This will be followed by a concert in the Green Hall, Cefn Cribwr on Friday, October 19.

During November, the choir are in a concert at the Cornelly Community Centre, organised by and in aid of the Kenfig Hill Girl Guides. They will be joined by choirs from the Guides and by the Da Capo children's choir.

During December, the choir will be visiting many retirement and nursing homes as well as the Princess of Wales Hospital, bringing the joy of Christmas with the singing of carols and Christmas songs. The highlight of the December diary is the annual Christmas carol evening in Pysgah Chapel, which this year will be on Monday, December 12.

The evening features choirs from the junior and primary schools of Cornelly, Afon y Felin, Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger, Pyle, Mynydd Cynffig and Cefn Cribwr plus the Crescendo Youth and Male Voice Choirs.

The 200 voices of the choirs coupled with a congregation of 400 will make for a night to remember.

The year ends with the annual dinner in the Grove Golf Club on Friday, December 14.

Fellowship coffee

DUE to renovations at the Chapel, Pysgah Ladies Fellowship are now holding their coffee evening in support of the Macmillan Cancer Care at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on September 28 at 7pm.

This is a good chance to meet up with old friends and catch up on the latest news in pleasant surroundings.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

roundings.

For details of this, and other events being held by the fellowship, telephone Rhian on 01656 744772 or Karen on 01565 740684.

Shout

THE mystery speaker who gave a very interesting talk at the last meeting of Kenfig Hill Shout was Margaret Dixon from Bridgend Resource Centre.

It is hoped that following on from this, they will be able to work in partnership with Learning Disability Services in the near future.

The next meeting of will be held at the Barnyard, Pyle Cross, Pyle, on Tuesday, September 25, from 2pm-4pm. On this occasion, the speakers will be from BCBC about housing and supporting people.

For further details of this and other events, telephone Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

Flower festival

ST THEODORE'S Church, Kenfig Hill, will be holding a Festival of Flowers and Music on September 28-30.

Throughout the festival, the church will be decorated with flowers. On September 28, young artists will be performing in a concert which will also feature the Crescendo Youth and Da Capo Children's choirs.

Following this, there will be a gala concert on September 29, featuring the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band and Sounds Familiar. Both concerts start at 7pm. Tickets are £5 for the Youth Concert and £6 for the Saturday evening, or £10 for the pair, and can be purchased at the church or in Theo's, the church shop. The festival is due to close on September 30 at 6pm with Songs of Harvest Praise.

Wellbeing Centre

ACTIVITIES held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on September 19 include arts and crafts from 1.30pm-2.30 pm, Learn Direct Talk from 2pm-3pm and the Reading Group from 3pm-4pm. There will also be a social afternoon from 1pm-5pm.



Choir chairman Harold Phillips, bringing to mind the old Arctic Monkeys hit!



Paul and Margaret.

Mediumship

SIMONE Johnson and guest is holding a mediumship evening at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on Wednesday, October 3, from 7.30pm to 10pm.

Simone has been an award winner in the West Wales Spiritual Connection Awards for the last two years. Everyone is welcome and the cost of the evening is £9, payable on entry.

St James' Church

Mothers' Union - The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will be held in the Church Hall, Pyle, on September 18. A warm welcome is extended to everyone for what will be a very special evening, when the speaker will be the Venerable Phillip Morris.

Film Club: The next showing at the film club will be in the hall on September 18 at 2pm.

Sponsors are sought to illuminate the St Mary Magdalene Church, Maudlam

For further information of this and other events in the parish, telephone Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500 or 07766 710373 or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302.

Telephone scam

COMPUTER owners should beware of a scam which involves a telephone call from someone claiming that they were from BT Solutions and claiming to be a Microsoft approved supplier.

I had such a call from this person telling me that there was a global problem with Windows and that my computer had been affected. He offered to talk me through on how to fix it.

However, when I asked him for his contact details such as, telephone number and email address etc. he said that he could only release that information after we had gone through the fixing process.

When I told him that I needed it first before proceeding, he rang off. I have since heard that he has



Dave and Sandra.



Ernie and Jean.

tried this on with friends of mine, with the same outcome. This is a scam where they persuade people to install expensive anti-virus software, call astronomical phone lines etc.

They appear to be targeting this area, so be wary of cold calls and always check that they are legitimate before entering into conversation with them as at first they seem so genuine. The best reply to these people is, hang up on them.

Island Farm open day lets visitors get a taste of World War Two behind prison camp wires

WORLD War Two re-enactment groups were at Hut 9, Island Farm last weekend, for an event which gave visitors a chance to see inside the sole remaining hut where German prisoners of war were kept.

Paintings and drawings created by the PoWs were on view at the camp, which hit the headlines when inmates staged an abortive escape attempt in 1945.



Hut 9, the only surviving hut at the former prisoner of war camp.



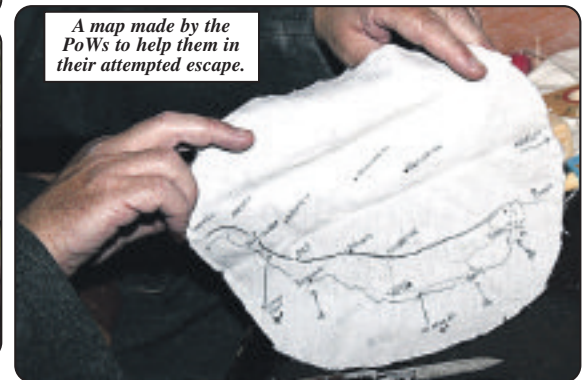
ABOVE: Dressed up, 1940s style!



Some of the artwork created by prisoners in their spare time.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS
OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk • telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



A map made by the PoWs to help them in their attempted escape.

Members celebrate double show success

THE Glamorgan WI Show was held on July 28, and we are extremely pleased and proud to report that we won, for a second year, both the **Margam Shield** (for most points for entering for WIs with under 40 members) and the **Bridgend Salver** (for most points gained for prizes won for WIs with under 40 members).

All our efforts and hard work have been worthwhile! One of our members, Val Caple, won the Doris Richards Cup for the best craft in the show, with a beautiful knitted cardigan.

An alfresco party was held in August; our member Marion Layton-Matthews kindly allowed us the use of her garden and members all brought buffet food.

Some members helped in the WI tent at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod,

PENLLYN AND DISTRICT WI

and we were responsible for the WI tent's lovely floral decorations.

About half of our members went on a day visit to Denman College to see the beautiful grounds and had a tour of the main house.

Monthly meetings resumed on September 4, when president Novello Peters introduced the speaker, Tim Wright, who gave a wonderful talk entitled 'A Journey to a Bee Hive'.

He told us about how he came to be a beekeeper, and explained about the lives of bees, and the workings of a hive.

We were shown a letter from a lady-in-waiting, on behalf of the Queen, thanking us for the Jubilee card, which had been designed and made by our member, Susan Wheatcroft.

Events
OUR craft evening will be on September 19, where we will be preparing for our Christmas fayre and on September 20, we will be entering a team

for the Federation Quiz in the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl.

Several members are planning to attend the Federation dinner at the Hi-Tide on October 23, when the speaker will be the comedian, Mike Doyle.

Penlllyn and District WI members will be represented among the cast of the WI pantomime, *Snow White* to be held at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on November 21-22, and rehearsals are now under way.

Two members are involved in the 'Flowers for Special Occasions' flower arranging course, and others are about to begin the 'demonstrators' course in Federation House.

Members will be sell-

ing their wares at the federation 'Craft Spectacular', on November 17 in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

Our own Christmas craft fayre will be held in Penlllyn Village Hall, on December 1.

We have also entered for the 'Christmas Tree Festival' to be held in Margam Oratory, on December 5.

Our next meeting will be on October 2 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall. Entertainment will take the form of a quiz, and members will provide a buffet supper.

New members are always warmly welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in Penlllyn Village Hall.

For further information, contact 01656 674191 or 01656 647115.

MN



ABOVE: The central corridor in Hut 9.



A 'PoW' passing the time wood carving



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Stagecoach selected to appear in CATS at NIA



Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge pupils are taking part in the organisation's 25th anniversary performance of CATS in Birmingham's NIA in March next year.

STAGECOACH Bridgend & Cowbridge has been chosen to perform in CATS – the Musical, to be staged at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham next March.

This will be the biggest ever event staged by Stagecoach, and is in celebration of the organisation's 25th

anniversary. The students flew through auditions, competing with every Stagecoach school, more than 680 in the UK alone, to win one of 30 spaces.

The event will see nearly 4,000 students from all over the UK performing to an audience of 12,000.

Principal Helene Reynolds said: "I am delighted, excited and so proud

that they beat such tough competition. The 25th anniversary promises to be a spectacular event with high profile coverage and celebrity support."

"It will be an amazing experience for our students, and one I am sure they will remember forever."

PRAISED... but Porthcawl Lions need more help to clean up the local beach!



Porthcawl Lions are looking for more support from locals for their beach clean days.

PORHCWL LIONS have recently received national recognition and praise, both in the newspapers and online, for the work they have done to help clean up the local beach.

Unfortunately, there has not been very much local support and, despite being ready to complain about litter, people seem reluctant to help with clean-up initiatives – so response to Lions' litter clean-up days has been disappointing.

However, there is another

chance to take part in cleaning up the area from Rest Bay to Sker. Tidy Wales are holding a 'Tidy Wales Week' all over the country starting on Monday, September 17.

On that date, Porthcawl Lions are organising a beach clean-up from 10am to 12 noon.

They are hoping that anyone who is free will turn up at The Rest car park at 10am.

Please wear stout shoes and bring gloves; everything else will be provided.

JOHN COSSON
(for Porthcawl Lions)

Take a journey into the past

THIS autumn, Y Llynfi Library is running 'Open doors' Open University taster sessions, running from September-December.

On September 15 from 10.15am-2.15pm, the 'Open doors' session will be the 'Story of Wales', based on the BBC1 series of the same name which was hosted by Huw Edwards.

Drop-in and discover your family history and find out everything you ever wanted to know about the local area with our team of researchers and historians who will be there on the night.

There will be a free prize draw, Icons of Wales booklets and follow on Open University course information packs available for participants on the day.

Other dates for 'Open doors' drop in sessions are: October 19, 10.15am-2.15pm at Y Llynfi; November 16, 10.15am-2.15pm at Pyle Life Centre; December 21, 10.15am-2.15pm at Pyle Life Centre.

More information can be found in the new libraries brochure available at your local library or online at: www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries.

Your chance to shake, ramble and roll in Bridgend!



There will be a world record attempt in Porthcawl for the largest gathering of Elvis impersonators – part of the Porthcawl Elvis Festival.

THREE iconic festivals are coming to Bridgend county borough this month

(September 28-30), giving residents and visitors the chance to shake, ramble and roll!

For the first time ever, Porthcawl Elvis Festival, Feastival: Wales' alternative food festival and Love2Walk Festival are all taking place over one weekend, bringing a mix of live music, quirky walks and unusual food experiences to the streets of Bridgend county.

Every September, thousands of Elvis fans descend on Porthcawl for a unique celebration of The King at Porthcawl Elvis Festival. This year it's taking place from September 28-30. The Grand Pavilion hosts The Three Kings Show, The Elvises, and Red Alert, the Elvis showband.

In addition, the Hi Tide Inn in Porthcawl will host more than 100 shows over the weekend, and more than 20 other venues in and around the town will host events as part of the Fringe Festival, making Porthcawl the largest Elvis event in Europe.

Feastival, which takes place on September 28-29, isn't your usual food festival. Visitors can expect a variety of unusual foodie experiences and entertainment throughout the weekend.

Bridgend town centre will house the first ever 'Cauliflower Forest'

and, if visitors look carefully enough, they'll see 6-foot orange-utans hanging from the trees.

Visitors can also expect food tasting, celebrity chef demonstrations, street music and entertainment suitable for all the family, including leak lobbying, spaghetti bridge building, egg drops and a giant tea party.

Love2Walk Festival is back for a third year, and kicks off on Saturday September 29 with a world record attempt for the largest gathering of Elvis impersonators, tying in with Porthcawl Elvis Festival on September 29 at 9.30am.

There are more than 40 walks planned for the festival, which runs until October 7. Participants can explore the stunning scenery of the Bridgend valleys to parts of the Wales Coast Path, as well as embark on some slightly more quirky expeditions including ghost walks, geocaching treasure hunts, speed dating walks and a wild food forage.

Visitors can also download a free new iPhone app, 'Dare To Discover', which features things to do, places to stay, event listings and more to make the most of their stay in Bridgend county.

For more information about Porthcawl Elvis Festival visit: www.elvises.co.uk, for Feastival: www.bridgendfeastival.com, and for Love2Walk: www.love2walk.co.uk.

Medical device testing lab awarded major contract

THE Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory, hosted by ABMU Health Board at the Princess of Wales Hospital is celebrating winning a contract to test medical devices, worth £20,000 to date.

Working closely with NHS Wales procurement, they test medical devices, such as latex gloves, dressings, surgeons' gowns and surgical instruments, before they are purchased for wards and clinical departments across Wales.

In addition, the laboratory provides testing services to medical device companies across the world, helping them check the quality of their products before they are placed on the market.

Thanks to their unique expertise and



Pamela Ashman, deputy manager of the Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory, tests an instrument.

international reputation, the laboratory was recently invited by a large US medical device company to tender for their testing and development work. The team were successful, winning around £20,000 worth of business, with more to follow over the next two years.

Peter Phillips, director of the Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory, said: "We have a long track record

of working with the international medical device community, but this is one of the largest contracts we have been awarded to date.

"The extra income will support the work that we do in setting minimum standards for medical devices used across the Welsh NHS, ensuring that patients and staff are not exposed to unnecessary risk, and helping Health Boards to get value for money."

Sun, sea, sand... and The GEM!



SOME contributors just can't let go of their work while on holiday abroad, as this picture of The GEM's paranormal correspondent, Hayley Williams, on holiday in Cala Major, Majorca, shows. She reported: "The GEM certainly turned a few heads!"

Two male choirs link Bridgend and Caldicot in concert harmony

CALDICOT Male Voice Choir welcomed Bridgend Male Choir to its annual gala concert on Saturday, September 8.

A full gymnasium at Caldicot Leisure Centre was the venue to hear two accomplished choirs in action. The choirs first came together in 2004 at the Welsh National Eisteddfod, Newport, where visiting Bridgend Male Choir was successful in winning the Fusiliers Cup.

The choirs are similar in size, with Bridgend celebrating its 50th anniversary last year and Caldicot reaching the milestone next year. Under its musical

directors, Sian Hatton and Shirley Ann James, Caldicot opened and closed the proceedings with a number of highlights in its musical renditions.

The author's favourite item was the lovely Dewi Morris' (Dewi Puss) 'Lleucu Llwyd' with its catchy melody matching the mood of an appreciative regular audience – that is, until the very next item, Freddie Mercury's 'Somebody to Love'.

Sian expressively sang the words and the choristers added special backing.

Bridgend choir were led by Rhiannon Williams-Hale, who has proved to be an inspiration to choristers since

her appointment earlier this year. Ably supported by Laura Smith on piano, the pair brought the very best from the Bridgend choristers.

The quiet controlled singing is especially worthy of comment for its quality. Favourites here were the haunting prayer from Les Miserables, 'Bring Him Home', and the well known 'Hava Nagila', both of which drew great applause.

The concert concluded with both choirs combining for 'Deus Salutus' and 'Morte Criste' – close on 150 choristers resulted in a very special finale.

Bridgend Male Choir can next be seen and heard at its annual concert at St Mary's Catholic Church in the town at 7pm, on September 21.

The concert features performances from its own musical team, as well as the Russell Sheppard Competition winner, Elinor Rolfe Johnson, soprano.

Entry by programme £8 (includes raffle) from Porters Estate Agents, Nolton Street; the News Shop, Dunraven Place or any chorister.

DAVID T BURT

100 mph crash

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He told the police: "I was going to see my girlfriend in hospital. She's pregnant."

He said he had become annoyed with Mr George because of the girl Mr George was with, and later panicked because he had no insurance.

He was said to have convictions for causing damage and to be in breach of a conditional discharge for possessing drugs.

His barrister, Carina Hughes said: "He wants to express genuine remorse. It was only by sheer luck that no injuries were caused."

"He is appalled at his behaviour."

The judge said: "This was a terribly dangerous course of persistently bad driving."

Nugget is in need of some TLC! Can you offer him a home?

"HELLO, my name is Nugget and I came to the Cats Protection Centre with my litter mate, Neo. Neo has been very lucky to already find his new home, but I had to stay behind to have some treatment on my eye.

"Unfortunately, this wasn't successful and I have had to have my eye removed. I am all better now, and I would love to find my 'forever home', too.

"I am a very happy, affectionate cat who

loves to curl up under my blanket for a nice long sleep. I have adjusted well to life with one eye and am desperate to find a loving family who can give me all the TLC I deserve.

"I will need to go to a very quiet area, as busy roads are dangerous for me. Can I come home to live with you?" Love and purrs, Nugget.

Contact Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirvaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ. Call: 01656 726 621, or email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk.



Nugget has lost an eye, but wants to find a caring home.

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COME AND VIEW
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Royal visitor displays her canny knowledge as sheepdogs are put through their paces at trials

RIGHT:
The Princess Royal was presented with a posy by the grandchildren of the host farmers of the event Tudor and Janet Harris. Five-year-old twins, Chloe and Jack Howells, and 18-month-old Evie, handed over the posy, which had been made by Gloria Davies, who lives in Ammanford.



THE Princess Royal worked the field when she flew in for the opening day of the International Sheepdog Trials at Redland Farm, Bonvilston in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The event is the biggest of its kind anywhere and a £2million economic driver, attracting 80 of the world's finest dogs, their handlers and thousands of spectators.

Princess Anne is Patron of the International Sheepdog Trials Society and displayed a keen interest in

and knowledge of the sport. She toured the farm and country festival, presented honours to the oldest and youngest trials competitors, and accepted a posy from the young grandchildren of host farmers Tudor and Janet Harris.

The posy presented by five-year-old twins Chloe and Jack Howells, who attend Cymmer Afan Primary School, and 18-month-old Evie, was created by Ammanford farmer and flower arranger, Gloria Davies.

Gloria chose the green, yellow and red colours to represent grass, sunshine, and the red collar of the sheep –

and of Wales. First Minister Carwyn Jones AM, who is president of the International Sheepdog Trials, the food and country festival, was enthusiastic about the event, admiring the skills of the sheepdogs and their handlers.

Those honoured for service to the International Sheepdog Trials Society included Roy and Rhys Jones of Red Lion Farm, Llanafan, Builth Wells, who were presented with the Wilkinson Sword; oldest competitor John Templeton of Beech Knowe Farm, Fenwick, Ayrshire; and youngest competitor Frazer Shennan of Knockgerran, Girvan, Ayrshire.

Mr Templeton said the presentation by the Princess Royal was the first sheepdog honour he had ever received in 64 years of trialling!

He had been in the Scottish team for a record 38 years. (See page 19 for more photographs.)



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Greyhound Rescue breaks homes record

WELSH charity Greyhound Rescue Wales is having a record-breaking time finding new homes for greyhounds and lurchers.

Charity chairman Alain Thomas said: "I've never known a summer like it. Usually during the holidays, the number of dogs we re-home dips but this year the opposite has happened. Our re-homing numbers have gone through the roof!"

The charity reported that a record breaking 17 greyhounds and lurchers were re-homed during August, with 14 dogs re-homed in June and 13 in July, re-homing almost as many dogs during this three month period than the whole of the previous year.

"Fortunately, this has been coupled with some record-breaking fundraising, with over £1,100 donated in one day by shoppers during a street collection in Queen Street Cardiff on Saturday," said vice chair Jon Trew.

"There is no single magic formula to achieving this success; it has involved long hours of hard work from a group of very dedicated supporters, but there are a couple of important changes that have really helped.

"We have completely embraced new technology and in particular social networking. Our Facebook site now has over 1,000 followers, which this means we can contact our supporters quickly and keep them up to date with all aspects of our work.

"It also means we can react quickly when there is an emergency, finding foster parents or volunteers to transport dogs. We are also now working more in partnership with other charities,

such as Greyhound Rescue West of England, Dogs Trust and Hope Rescue."

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ABOVE:
The staff with John Barrowman.

THE Dogs Trust is celebrating the first anniversary of its boutique opening in Cowbridge.

Jael Jones, the manager of the shop, explained that the charity's aim was not only to raise funds in the town, but to be a part of the community.

Jael said: "I cannot believe that it is a year since John Barrowman stopped the traffic and opened our doors at 62 Eastgate, Cowbridge."

"The whole year has passed in a very enjoyable blur. We have been made to feel so welcome by the community of Cowbridge and we hope that we have added something to the town by holding 'up-cycling' events, and getting involved in events such as the Cowbridge Food Festival, the Santa Parade and Christmas Tree Festival."

"We couldn't have asked for more from local people and a huge thank you has to go to our wonderful volunteers. They give up their precious time to work very hard at the shop each week and our generous supporters never fail to impress us with their donations to the shop."

From the moment the boutique opened, residents in Cowbridge, and even further afield, responded with products to ensure the unit was well stocked.

Jael said: "The wonderful donations just keep coming and it's the reason we can stock such fantastic items which makes so much money for the dogs in our care."

"They are housed at the Bridgend Re-homing Centre, which, incidentally, is celebrating its 10th birthday this year."

Jael continued: "We couldn't let our first birthday pass without celebrating - unfortunately without John Barrowman this year."



nately without John Barrowman this year.

"John couldn't make it, due to a book signing tour, but we will be having a party at the shop this Saturday, September 15."

"Shoppers will not only find fantastic new

items throughout the shop, including the Dogs Trust vintage range, which launches on September 15, but also our new Dogs Trust grooming products and Christmas cards."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

ABOVE:
The day TV star John Barrowman, stopped the traffic in Cowbridge.

DOGS TRUST: rehoming centres, fostering, health and education projects

THE Dogs Trust, which was formerly known as the National Canine Defence League, was founded in 1891.

It is the largest dog welfare charity in the UK.

A spokesman explained: "Our mission is to bring about the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction."

"Each year we care for around 16,000 dogs at our nationwide network of 18 rehoming centres."

"No healthy dog is ever destroyed."

But the trust is also involved in health and education campaigns.

The spokesman said: "We run subsidised neutering campaigns in areas of the UK with the most acute stray dog problems."

"Our education officers give thousands of classroom presentations every year."

"Free teaching resources are made available to all schools in the UK."

The charity also runs a number of other projects in the community.

"Our Freedom Project helps pet owners who are fleeing domestic violence by fostering their animals while they start a new life."

"The Hope Project gives preventative veterinary care to dogs belonging to homeless people."

"We advise government on any matters concerning dog ownership. Dogs Trust has established a charity in Ireland that runs a rehoming centre in Dublin."

"We assist overseas animal welfare charities by training their staff in best practice."

"We rely on the kind generosity of the public to make this possible. So, if you love dogs, please make a donation today."

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Benji Hales is pleased to support his friends at the Dogs Trust.

Join us on Saturday 15th September, 9.30am - 4.30pm



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Jael added: "As they browse, customers will be able to help themselves to a glass of fizz and handmade cup cakes courtesy of Michelle, the assistant manager.

"Our four-legged visitors will be able to sample some hand made dog biscuits made by me! I hope they like them!

"We will have 'living windows', with models showing off some of the amazing outfits we have in stock.

"There will be a silent auction of a Hugo Boss jacket, donated by John Barrowman, and a brand new Jimmy Choo handbag amongst other auction items.

"To celebrate the re-homing centre's

10th birthday, some of the dogs looking for their 'forever homes' will also be coming down to the shop during the day.

"It should be a great day with a host of other things going on between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

"So please come along and help us celebrate our first birthday!"

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'Why some (legal) issues cannot be aired in public'

SINCE my last column, we have had yet another fabulous event to enjoy – the Paralympics: Wales had a record 38 athletes winning 14 medals, 12 per cent of the GB total.

This was a wonderful achievement and we congratulate everyone who competed in team GB.

We have also seen another successful Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show. Congratulations are due to the organising committee.

Every year at the Show, the council holds a business event. This year, we focused on economic development. Business people from the Vale shared their ideas on how our area could be made more attractive to business and how we might work together to better encourage tourism.

We'll be using the suggestions to help inform our decision making and we will be reporting back to everyone that participated.

There was more good news, with the release of this year's A-level and GCSE results.

A-level pass rates in our schools have remained at a high level. There was an increase of 3.8 per cent in pupils who achieved A* – C grades, which is 1.2 per cent above the Welsh average and overall 97.1 per cent of all entries resulted in a

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

pass, which was the same as last year.

Compared to last year, the number of pupils achieving an A grade was 1.7 per cent lower, but still an impressive 5.4 per cent above the Welsh average.

At GCSE level 24.5 per cent of pupils gained the top A*/A, maintaining last year's performance, while 69.8 per cent of all entries results in an A* – C grade. This is a marginal decrease of 0.4 per cent compared to last year.

These are excellent results – well done to all the pupils and their teachers.

CRITICISMS
I would like to finish by answering some unfounded criticisms that I have received.

This council has been questioned on its promise of openness and transparency because there have been items on its cabinet agenda, which are not open to the public, known as Part 2 reports.

These are confidential items that are not made public for legal

reasons. This is because there are private, personal, contractual or commercially sensitive information contained within them and as such the council is legally obliged not to make them public.

I do not like having Part 2 reports, believing that as many reports as possible should be open to public scrutiny, but there have to be some exceptions.

Therefore, when any report is submitted as a Part 2 item, it has been thoroughly scrutinised by our lawyers and has to meet strict legal criteria before it can have a Part 2 status.

This is not an easy process and I guarantee that it is for legal reasons. We will not use this as a device to hide anything from the public.

This council is committed to openness and transparency, wherever legally possible. On that you have my promise.

• Next month I will report on more news from the Vale but until then, I wish everyone well.

'SHEEPDOG TRIALS PUT VALE ON MAP'

VALE MP Alun Cairns enjoyed a trip to the International Sheepdog Trials at Redlands Farm, Bonvilston last week with his son **Henri**.

He said: "My family and I thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the International Sheepdog Trials in Bonvilston.

"Eighty sheepdogs and their skilled handlers from across the four home countries of the UK were put through their paces at this, the largest event of its kind.

"The glorious weather and ideal venue really put the Vale on the map with the thousands of visitors to the trials and food and country event.

"Mr and Mrs Harris were very kind to host such a great event. Redlands Farm is an excellent location and venue for this international event in the Vale."



Alun and Henri Cairns at the International Sheepdog Trials in Bonvilston.

You can find The Glamorgan GEM on Twitter - follow us @gem_news

Out and About with The GEM

Forum meets to hear about Penarth Pavilion

OLDER people in the Vale are invited to a meeting to receive an update on the Penarth Pavilion project.

On September 27 at

2pm in the corporate suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, the executive of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum will be holding a free open meeting for all forum members.

There will be a talk by Paul Twamley; chair of the board of trustees on the Penarth Pavilion Project.

Two-hour sessions are held in the afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays from 1.30pm-3.30pm and 7pm-9pm. Annual subscriptions are £35 up to age 80, and £10 for over 80.

Places have to be booked in advance. Telephone John Porter on 01446 450201. Tea and coffee will be available.

Coffee morning

THERE will be a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care at the 'Hands of an Angel' retreat, Park Road, Barry, on September 22, from 10am-3pm. Entrance: £3, to include cake and refreshments, and mini reading for £5 on the day. All proceeds to charity

Sully Painting Group
SULLY Painting Group welcome old and new members to join them at the Jubilee Hall, off Smithies Avenue, Sully, for the new membership year running from September 4 to July 9, 2013.

A varied programme has been compiled including tutorials, demonstrations and competitions.

Two-hour sessions are held in the afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays from 1.30pm-3.30pm and 7pm-9pm. Annual subscriptions are £35 up to age 80, and £10 for over 80.

For further information, contact Mrs Pam Hilldrup (02920 530653) or Mrs Ros Adams (002920 707553).

Festival of sports

THIS Saturday, September 15, from 11am-4pm, there will be a Church and Community Sports Festival Day for all ages at The Gathering Place Church and Community Centre in St Athan.

There will be action songs, Inner Spirit Tae

Kwon Do and zumba will give demonstrations, large board games, bouncy castle for young children and football penalty shoot out.

For more information, contact Rev Peter Taylor on 01446 406262, or revpete@live.co.uk.

Charity coffee

A CHARITY coffee morning will be held at the All Saints Church, Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, on Saturday, September 15, 10am-12noon.

Admission £1, includes cup of coffee/tea and Welsh cake. Plenty of bargains for all. All proceeds to Parkinsons UK.

Over-50s coffee

THE first Ewenny and Corntown over-50s coffee morning will be held at the village hall, in Ewenny, on September 19 (then every Wednesday) from 10am-12pm.

It is part of an initiative to help combat loneliness by working with communities to set up activities and opportunities for older people to come together.

For more informa-

tion, call 01446 795631 or email jane.platts@age-concern-cardiff.org.uk.

Arts festival concert

THE next event in the Ewenny Arts Festival will be at Ewenny Priory Church and features Adam Khan (classical guitarist) and Michael Bochman (Professor of Violin and String at Trinity Conservatoire of Music and Dance).

The concert is on Thursday, September 20, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and £7.50 (concessions).

Telephone Ewenny Pottery (01656 653020) or Mari (01656 664105).

Jumble sale

COWBRIDGE Scouts hold their annual jumble sale on Saturday, September 22, from 10.30pm to 12.30pm in the scout hall, behind the sheep market in Cowbridge. Entry fee 50p.

Charity line dance

THERE will be a charity line dance at the Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry on September 22 (7pm-late).

Fancy dress (optional) is the 'Armed Forces'; admission £10.

All proceeds in aid of Healing the Wounds; www.healingthewounds.co.uk

Evening with

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D739.

● £2,000: 174695.
● The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 4 8 4 9 9 9 9, 489990, 766077, 914779, 114148, 400761, 519724, 216435, 122272, 811801, 371165, 198508, 200638, 602885, 944609, 181729, 257845, 347733, 673979, 235423.

● £5: 937736, 925197, 160283, 542568, 101828, 264497, 433024, 781236, 562918, 337923, 493251, 454025, 462294, 599520, 643270, 600907, 691371, 688703, 699967, 654926, 731919, 167188, 588939, 506164, 317238, 467201, 159783, 359225, 912416, 888793, 287161, 371630, 337372, 845052, 896357, 705434, 328617, 661489, 856574, 184376, 377380, 101446, 845774, 466698, 695432, 740946, 327952, 104573, 778677, 102777, 180486, 877897, 678716, 805227, 862869, 361566, 401794, 443230, 568783, 189489.

Terry Waite

THE one time Archbishop's envoy, held in solitary captivity for five years, was the founder of Y Care International, the development wing of the British YMCA.

During his captivity, the Archbishop chaired the meetings in his absence. On Sunday, September 23 at 7.30pm in Time Out, Trecco Bay, Porthcawl, Terry Waite CBE, president Y Care International, will be the guest speaker at a three-course meal with coffee, costing £15 (if purchased before September 17).

It is an opportunity to hear of his experiences and the work of Y Care International. Tickets are available from the YMCA office, 24 Victoria Avenue, 01656 772166 or John Berry 01656 772002.

Coffee for Macmillan

KPC Youth (next to Pil Primary in Pyle) are hosting their annual coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief from 9.15am to 11am on Tuesday, September 25.

They will be joined at 9.30am by the choir from Pil Primary School, followed by fun bingo and raffle.

Admission £1, includes coffee and biscuits. Call 01656 749219/745399 or email kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Vale village launches its cinema club

A VALE village is bringing the experience of going to the movies to the community by starting a monthly cinema club.

Llancafarn Community Cinema will open its doors on Friday, September 21, with a screening of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (12A) in Llancafarn Village Hall.

The launch event includes an Indian-themed drinks reception to get everyone in the mood.

Based on Deborah Moggach's novel, the film follows a group of British retirees who decide to 'outsource' their retirement to less expensive and seemingly exotic India, with comic and touching consequences.

The top-notch cast includes Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, Penelope Wilton, Tom Wilkinson and Slumdog

Millionaire's Dev Patel.

Volunteers plan to host monthly screenings thereafter, with support from Creative Rural Communities and the British Federation of Film Societies, bringing the best in big screen entertainment to the community.

Upcoming performances include *The Woman in Black* (October 19), *Moonrise Kingdom* (November 23) and *We Bought a Zoo* (December 15).

Screenings are open to all, but members can enjoy discounted tickets and other perks.

Tickets cost £3 for members, non-members will be charged £4.50 in advance and £6 on the door.

Doors open 7.15pm, and the performance starts at 7.30pm.

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Opera stars sing for heart charity

ARTISTS from the Welsh National Opera will be at Arboreal restaurant, Cowbridge, on the evening of September 17, for an event in support of the British Heart Foundation.

Diners will be served an Italian-themed meal, with vocal entertainment from the operatic performers.

For tickets, contact Sam on 01446 775093.

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Anna Karenina, ambitious but poorly executed...

When Joe Wright arrived with the one-two punch of *Pride & Prejudice* and *Atonement*, the director seemed to be heading straight for the upper echelons of Hollywood.

While the director wobbled slightly with *The Soloist* (his first American outing), he redeemed himself greatly with last year's females-led action movie *Hanna*, showing there was more than met the eye to the Brit, whose latest film sees him adapt Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*.

Set in late 19th century Russia, Keira Knightley plays the titular Anna, whose marriage to Alexei (Jude Law) is suffering; she embarks upon an affair with Count Vronsky (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), which has dramatic consequences for all involved...

Anna Karenina marks the third time that Joe Wright and Keira Knightley have worked together, their first two team-ups heralding massive success in *Pride & Prejudice* and *Atonement*. Sadly they are unable to claim a hat-trick here as the ambition of *Anna Karenina* isn't matched by the execution, the

adaptation starting brightly but faltering as it makes its way to its conclusion.

Joe Wright has never been the most conventional of directors, his early films eschewing the staid expectations of the source material and being brought vividly to life, while both *The Soloist* and *Hanna*, while completely different genres, both showed ambition beyond what was expected. Here Wright shoots the majority of the film within a theatre, the different locations signposted by different backgrounds, camera angles and so forth.

It is a freeing concept, reducing the epic sprawl of the story to something far more intimate and intriguing.

Yet Wright doesn't seem wholly convinced by this, the film veering more onto location as the story progresses, for no reason whatsoever; if he can bring a train or a horse race into the confines of the theatre why not a horse-drawn carriage? Wright never makes this clear, and though aiming for something theatrical and showing some beautiful touches, it feels uneven.

The performances are more of a theatrical bent than a filmic one, maintain Wright's aesthetic, but again feel a bit and hit miss. Keira Knightley offers an



by **GARETH JAMIESON**
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uneven performance in the lead, failing to imbibe the (anti?) heroine of the piece with any sympathy despite her plight as the story progresses.

The actress is more than capable of offering the goods but, some flashes aside, her performance leaves you feeling as cold as a Russian winter.

Jude Law is particularly good as her wronged husband, a seemingly-staid individual incapable of showing emotion in a world that seems to be passing him by, the actor proving he is a better ensemble player than lead.

Aaron Johnson, as his love rival, feels miscast as Vronsky, the actor looking too young for the role (particularly with a moustache a 13-year-old would be

embarrassed about).

With the likes of Matthew Macfadyen and Domhnall Gleeson (whose subplot is more engaging than the central story) standing out in a support cast that also numbers Kelly McDonald, Ruth Wilson and Olivia Williams, there is no shortage of star wattage on display - it's just a shame the leads, Law aside, don't really ignite.

Landing Tom Stoppard to write the screenplay was quite a coup, but this feels leaden as well, the drama feeling undernourished by the script, events passing by with a shrug.

You can't fault Wright's attempts to take *Anna Karenina* in a different direction, but the end result, while ambitious, just fails to engage past the clever concept, a shame given the talent involved.

VERDICT - Bold and invigorating, but lacking in the substance to back it up, *Anna Karenina* feels too leaden despite the best efforts of Joe Wright to take the material into a different realm.

Disappointing central turns from the leads are slightly compensated for by a good support cast, but it isn't enough to really engage. *Poor*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Pride & Prejudice* (2005), *Atonement* (2007)



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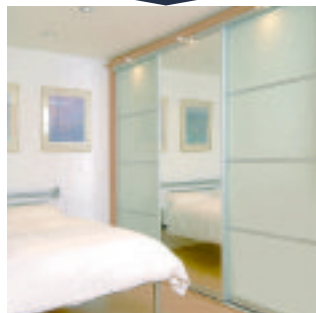


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Castle steeped in legendary tales of mysterious dwellers

THE sleepy village of Llanblethian lies one mile south west of Cowbridge, with attractive houses looking down on the area below.

A gentleman called Thomas Carlyle wrote about "The cheerful group of human homes clustered like sleeping cataract of white houses with trees overlooking and fringing it dotted over the hillside overlooking the village in a hollow".

Carlyle's friend, John Sterling (1806-44), lived at Llanblethian. He was a journalist and critic on the affairs of the Peninsula War, writing about military matters as he was a retired Army Officer.

He lived over the brow of the hill at a guest house overlooking the church and castle.

Once named St Quentins, the listed Llanblethian hill fort (also known as Caer Dynnaf) is set on the hillside. It is thought to have evolved from the Norman period as a ruinous building of rectangular shape with 1.2m thick walls from around 1200.

However, the surrounding walls and gateway are additions by Gilbert de Clare from 1307, which were sadly not completed until after his death in 1314 at the battle of Brannock.

Other parts of the hill fort include ruinous semi-octagonal towers to the south east and south west corners. The ivy-clad gatehouse is bordered by towers and arrow loops (holes).

It also had a passageway to a coiled staircase to the rear, and the remains of a keep are still visible 10 metres south of the gatehouse.

The gatehouse once had guard rooms on each side, and was in

service as a prison for a long period of time. It was reportedly three or four storeys high and built over earthworks from the 14th Century. The fortress was held by the Lord of Glamorgan, and also had connections with the Herbert and Fitzhamon families, who had all disappeared from records by the first quarter of the 14th Century.

The castle was used by many Lords of Glamorgan until the late 19th Century, when it was downgraded to a cowshed. With very little remains of such a grand building, it was given to the state in 1994, with the 14th Century gatehouse undergoing restoration by CADW.

Llanblethian Church is dedicated to St John the Baptist, and stands on the hill behind the castle leaning towards Llysorwney.

Roman remains were also found here, as well as evidence of Roman existence within the vicinity.

Legendary tales are aplenty around the area of the castle, the most famous being of its people claiming to outsmart the devil.

St Quentin is said to have conducted battles with the evil one around the area. He is supposed to have wounded Satan, leaving him lame for three days.

Eerily relating to this fable, the slopes on the hills are reported to hold the marks from the battle, and have been named 'The Devil's Right Knee Cap and Left Foot', because of the severity of his wounds.

Another mystifying tale involves pixies who are described as wearing red military uniforms. They seem intent on dancing around the castle site supposedly guarding it from attack.

But where could these little people have come from, and why

would they want to parade around an area outside their normal habitat?

The startling image of a gracious looking lady in red has been seen floating around the top of the gatehouse, only to slowly fade away into oblivion. Could this strange spectacle be searching for someone from another world beyond our understanding, or just an illusory trick of the mind?

Visitors to the castle have reported the feeling of being pushed, only to discover that no physical person is performing this mischievous deed.

Could the inhabitants of yesterday be trying to remind us that this once enchanting building was their home, or just a misjudgment of emotion at such an ancient location?

The shadowy cloaked figure of a man has been seen walking around the embattlements as if in human form. What is this creepy image, and why would it choose to roam an area unrecognisable to him today as its outward appearance is an antiquated ruin?

An ancient soldier wearing a suit of armour has occasionally been seen around the gatehouse, wandering as if in search of something or someone. But why would a gallantry warrior want to return to a place beyond his own realm?

An implausible story, passed down through the generations of time, conveys the sighting of a headless dog, which is said to have belonged to a giant who roamed the hills. He is alleged to have decapitated his canine companion by accidentally tugging too harshly on the leash.

Fact or fiction? It's up to you to decide ...

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REDLAND FARM, Bonvilston, home of Mr and Mrs Tudor Harris, was the venue for the 2012 International Sheepdog Trials.

The three-day event saw 60 handlers and dogs undertake two days of qualifying before the third day, on which the International Supreme Championship took place.

The course proved to be challenging to handler, dog and sheep.

For the spectator, the undulating terrain produced exciting out runs, with the chance to see world class dogs in action, expertly handled around a challenging course which seemed to have it all, before undertaking the shed, where five red-colored ewes were separated and penned in for what turned out to be a nailbiting end to the course.

The competitors who were able to complete the 30-minute course within the time, demonstrated the close working relationship between handler and dog and the ability to stay calm and focused under the pressure of the shedding ring.

By 6pm on the Saturday, the International Supreme Champions 2012 were declared as Ian Brownlie and Boredale Gus, with Scotland taking the team title. Reserve Supreme Champion was Robert Ellis and Mirk (Bridgend).

The International Brace Champion was Welshman Ian Jones with his dogs, Tom and Jess, and Wales also took the Driving Championship with Jeff Hudd and his dog Tysswg Nell.

Following their run, every dog had to be inspected by ophthalmic vet, Mr Paul Evans.

As well as the main action on the field, there were many behind the

scenes ensuring the smooth running and seamless operation. Twenty sheep stewards, many trialists themselves who were not taking part in the international, worked tirelessly with their dogs to ensure that the 320 Suffolk x Welsh Mountain Mule sheep, belonging to Mr Harris, were shepherded to and from the trials field.

There were also a team of remarkable field stewards who covered the slick movement of people and vehicles around the site.

There was worldwide attention on this event with visitors from as far afield as, Sweden, Canada and the USA.

There were many local spectators who, before the event was held in the Vale, had not attended a Sheepdog Trials.

For hosts Tudor and Janet Harris it was a real family affair. Their daughter, Helen Howells, is secretary for the event, son-in-law, Dai Howells, vice-chairman, and Dai's brother Lyn was a member of the 2012 Welsh team. Added to that, Tudor's own dog Gwen is the mother of Irish team member Michael Feeney's dog 'Jack', who was competing, as was Jack's father who is Welsh team member Rob Ellis' Mirk, from Bridgend.

There was also the 'Food and Country Fair' with countryside ring attractions including falconry, sheepdog and duck displays and gundog displays.

Inside the marquee were cookery demonstrations and arts and crafts.

JANE BISSETT



ABOVE: A smiling Princess Royal enjoyed her day at the sheepdog trials, arriving by helicopter and spending a great deal of time talking to competitors and spectators.



ABOVE:

A special award for services to the International Sheep Dog Society (ISDS) was presented to Roy and Rhys Jones. The 'Wilkinson Sword' was presented to the brothers who stage the Llanafan Show Sheep Dog Trials at their home farm. A family tradition, trials have been held at the farm for 123 years.

LEFT:
The stands were full of interested spectators.

FAR RIGHT:
The Princess Royal, who is the patron of the International Sheep Dog Society.



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Mr Nicholas Francis – 23 Rectory Close, Wenvoe
– Retrospective single and double storey side as
built.

Mrs Natalie Hooper – The Stables, Marcross,
Llantwit Major – Front veranda and ground floor
rear extension.

Mr Peter Battle – 127 Fontygary Road, Rhosce –
Raising the wall plate height, and creating a new
gable roof. Creating a new main entrance to the
left side of the house, replacing all windows and
doors with more efficient double glazing, and
reconfiguring the internal spaces. This will
include a first-floor bathroom and two new first-
floor bedrooms.

The occupier – 58 Stanwell Road, Penarth – Fell
sycamore.

Mr and Mrs Dixon – 17a South Road, Sully –
Crown lift limbs to sycamore tree over 19 South
Road, Sully.

Mrs Smith – Woodside, Park Road, Dinas Powys
– Crown lift, reduce lower limbs to oak tree to rear
of property.

Mr Matthew Parish – Land off Old Port Road,
Wenvoe – demolition of existing buildings and
redevelopment of site for residential purposes.

Penarth Arts & Crafts Ltd – Penarth Pavilion,
The Esplanade, Penarth – Alterations and new
second floor observatory extension to pavilion to
include new roofs, new internal layout, building
access improvements with new side entrances,
lowering ground floor, new first floor gallery and
new lift.

Mrs Helen Miller – 2 Pioden For, Barry –
Retention of conservatory.

Dr Colin Smith – Harbour's Edge, 38 Plas
Talesin, Penarth – Garage conversion.

Mr Craig Davies – Flat 2 Rowan House, Bridge
Street, Cogan, Penarth – Removal of rear upvc
window and panel below and replace with sliding
upvc door and small glazed panel to one side with
opening window.

Mrs Karen Parker – 39 Belvedere Crescent,
Barry – Proposed demolition and reconstruction of
rear annex plus extension.

Mr Mark Edwards – Adjacent to Happy Jakes
Caravan Park, Flemingston – Variation of condi-
tion 3 of permission 2009/01336/FUL to allow for
provision for 10 caravan seasonal pitches.

Mrs Billy Western – 26 Devon Avenue, Barry –
Single storey entrance porch to the front elevation.

Mr and Mrs John Stevenson – 23 Bryntirion,
Church Hill Close, Llanblethian – Construction
of new garage and garage store with loft storage
over.

Mr Steven Gosling – 1 Cliff Street, Penarth –
Realignment of rear annex roof to provide
study/games room.

Mrs Deborah Lee – Glebe Cottage, The
Common, Mount Road, Dinas Powys – to rein-
state the balustrade on the balcony area that has
been extended as a result of the increased ground
floor extension.

Mr Philip Denton – Orchard Rise, 6 Penlan
Road, Llandough – Demolish existing dwelling at
Orchard Rise, No 6 Penlan Road, Llandough,
CF64 2LT and construct two new dwellings with
associated parking.

Mr and Mrs Keigh Stephenson – 2 The Greave,
Wenvoe – Continued occupation of property and
non compliance with condition 1 of planning per-
mission 1974/0710.

Mr Peter Marriott – Outbuilding, Woodlands
Cottage, Llandough, Cowbridge – Convert out-
building to domestic gym and office.

Tesco Stores Ltd – Stirling Road, Barry – car
park and building signage.

Mr Julian Hinam – Land at Coed Arthur,
Llancafarn – New road.

Mr Julian Hinam – Land at Coed Arthur,
Llancafarn – Forestry machinery storage building.
Winchester Development Company – former
Emporium Garden Centre, Fferm Goch,
Llangan – Outline erection of 40 dwellings with
associated access and landscaping. All matters
reserved.

Bamburgh Homes LLP – Vacant land off Cedar
Road, Eglwys Brewis, St Athan – Erection of
eight semi-detached two-storey houses.

Mr Ian Goodridge – 172 Windsor Road, Penarth
– Proposed rear extension to provide garden room
and alterations to existing fenestration.

Mrs I Rogers – Shorkot Farm House, Woodlands
Lane, Leckwith – Painted render boundary wall
and electric access gates.

Mr S Sheppard and Mrs D Randall – Briarbank,
Penylan Road, St Brides Major – Alterations and
extensions to existing dwelling.

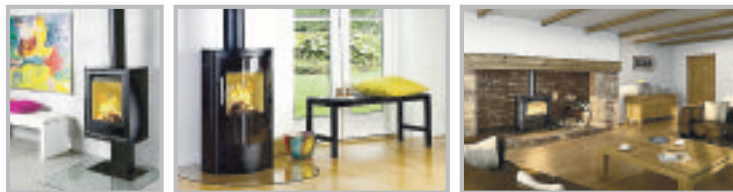
Mrs Marian Arnold – Sefrou, 19 Cae Rex,
Llanblethian – Remove a sycamore tree.

Mr Joseph Cordina – Dukes Farm, Gower Lane,
Leckwith – This application is for an extension
building with lean to, which will be used to house
a horse walker.

Vale Council – Holton Road Primary School,
Barry – installation of a new platform lift to give
disabled access to main school entry and associat-
ed works, including rebuilding length of boundary
wall (amendment retrospectively to application ref
2011/00702/RG3).

Mr Owen Harries – Land at former Mount
Pleasant Farm, Llangan – erection of agricultural
dwelling.

Mr T Cassam – 32 Rhodfa Felin, Barry – internal
garage to be converted into living space (lounge).
Garage door to be removed and replaced with
small brick wall and window.



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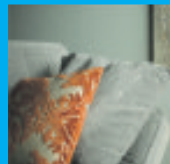


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VALE PLANNING

Mr Mark Rees – Caerau (Ely) AFC, Cwrt Yr Ala Road, Cardiff – Installation of new floodlight system to existing football pitch, comprising eight 15m high columns, each fitted with two Thorn Champion 2KW floodlights.

Asbri Planning Ltd – The Paddocks, Penarth – Construction of a new single dwelling and associated works.
Mrs Kelly Macleod – 18 Goodwick Close, Barry – Single storey flat roof extension to side and rear of existing domestic dwelling.
Mr Nigel Cottle – Westmoor Barn, Primrose Hill, Cowbridge – Erection of an outbuilding.

Festive Growth – Ty Cerrig, Bonvilston – Construction of new forestry track.
Mr D W Gillespie – Church House, 14 Old Port Road, Wenvoe – Overhanging stem to be removed from beech within the church graveyard.

Mr Ben Winstanley – 73 Heol y Frenhines, Dinas Powys – A single storey side and rear extension.
Mr and Mrs McQuaid – The Pheasant House and Dovecote, Nash Manor, Cowbridge – Demolish existing conservatory linking the Pheasant House and the Dovecote. Construct new enlarged conservatory on broadly the same footprint.
Dr Sarah Cuffin –

Ravensworth, 4 Plymouth Road, Penarth – Use of premises for Class 4 laser treatments.

Mr Alastair McIntyre – 87 Westbourne Road, Penarth – Single storey extension and conversion of an existing garage to the rear of property.

Mr Philip Tweedle – 15A Victoria Square, Penarth – Remove window to bottom bay and replace with double glazed box sash pvcu style.

B D Rankine – Hendre, Llantrithyd Road, St Hilary – Remove Blue Atlas cedar.

Mr K Williams – Noveau, 18a Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys – Remove beech stems.
E M Callaghan – St Quentins Cottage, St Quentins Hill, Llanblethian – Remove the belt of cypressus to the south side of the cottage garden.

REG Windpower – Mynydd Portref extension, Argoed Edwin Farm, Llanharan, Pontyclun – Erection of up to seven wind tur-

bines up to 110 metres tip height, access tracks, cables, electrical substation and associated ancillary equipment.

Richard Couzens Machinery Ltd – Unit 10a, Vale Business Park, Llandow – Proposed erection of an 18m high small scale turbine.

Mr David Thomas – Treguff Fach Farm, Llantrithyd – Retrospective consent for the existing tractor store on site.

Mrs N Sullivan – Unit 8, Penarth Pier, Esplanade, Penarth – Proposed works include replacing the shop front window at Unit 8, Penarth Pier (replacement on a like for like basis).

Mrs Millar – 13 Knowbury Avenue, Penarth – Rear dormer.
Dr Rhodri Martin – 8 Hensol Villas, Hensol – Single and two storey extension to rear and side of property.

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Helvetic withdraws service Cardiff Airport is to miss Swiss

CARDIFF AIRPORT has received a new body blow, with the decision by a Swiss airline to stop its service to Zurich later this year.

The Helvetic service won't run through the winter, but it is reported both parties are in talks to resume the service by next summer.

The news comes hard on the heels of the airport posting a £319,000 loss in 2011, following a profit of £1million in 2010.

The leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, said Helvetic's decision was 'a warning' that the First Minister needed to act fast in arresting the airport's decline.

He said: "Setting up task groups is all fine and well but let's remember that this came after the First Minister had embarked upon a one-man mission to talk down the airport earlier this year; something that cannot have encouraged airlines to take a punt on bringing new routes to

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

Cardiff. The sad truth is that despite having huge potential, Cardiff Airport needs real action and it is time that the Welsh Government made a commitment to looking at route establishment grants as an absolute priority."

A spokesman for the Welsh Government said formation of a task force group, which the First Minister chairs, demonstrated that it was addressing the issues faced by the airport.

"Our focus is on making Cardiff Airport an airport that helps drive economic development and tourism.

"A vibrant airport is a key piece of national infrastructure. The First Minister's establishment of the task force demonstrates our commitment to the airport."

The Cardiff Airport Task Force was set up to examine the competitive position of the airport and brings together the site's owners, the Welsh Government and busi-

ness leaders.

The task force's stated aims are increasing the number of flights, expanding connectivity with other countries, and boosting economic investment.

Helvetic will continue to serve Bristol Airport, which was a stop on the flight to Cardiff.

A spokeswoman for Cardiff Airport told The GEM it was confident the Swiss service would be re-established.

She said: "Helvetic launched from Cardiff in March 2011 and has operated three times weekly.

"Its decision to stop operating for the winter of 2012-13 is a commercial decision based upon results last year.

"While it is disappointing, we are working to ensure its return for summer 2013 and are confident that this can be achieved."

The spokeswoman pointed out that the regular Helvetic flights had brought many Swiss tourists to Wales and was an opportunity that could be built on

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT FOR MEIBION Y MACHLUD!



Members of Cor Meibion impressed on stage at the National Eisteddfod in the Vale last month.

FOLLOWING a very busy summer, local choir Meibion y Machlud will resume practicing on Monday, September 24, at 4.45pm in Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

The choir competed to a very high standard at the National Eisteddfod, receiving some very positive comments from the adjudicators who enjoyed our warm sound. Many of the

members played a central part in the Eisteddfod choir, which sang in the concerts, 'Gymnfa Ganu' and the Sunday morning service.

This week, the choir was invited to film a scene for the Welsh drama *Gwaith Cartref*. It was an experience that was new to many of the members and one which they all enjoyed.

New members are always welcome

to join this friendly enthusiastic choir as we start to practice our programme for the year ahead under the baton of Eric Dafydd, and accompanied by concert pianist Carol Phillips.

The aim for the coming year is to support local community organisations and organise a choir tour, possibly to France. Details to be confirmed.

Terry Williams

FIRST TIME FLIGHT FOR FOUR CADETS

RECENTLY, Air Cadet Sean Hodges of 372 (Barry) Squadron experienced the thrills and excitement of flying in the modern Grob Tutor aircraft at MoD St Athan for the first time.



Georgina Poulakis

Since Sean joined 372 Squadron, his feet have not touched the ground. He has experienced shooting weekends, gaining his marksman awards, as well as taking part in the Cambrian patrol field craft competition.

Sean has travelled to Belgium and France to visit the battlefields of

World War 1 and is now looking forward to more adventure training expeditions, and to his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition.

Initially, he sat nervously alongside the pilot to experience the sensation of flying, and also the effects of g-forces on the body. Sean not only

enjoyed the flight, but also took the opportunity to fly the aircraft himself under the supervision of the pilot.

Afterwards, he said: "Flying the aircraft was easier to control than I imagined, it was so cool, and I can't wait for my next flight".

Not content with a bird's eye view of the local area, several Cadets were given the opportunity to see the world upside down! Experiencing the thrills of stomach churning aerobatics, which no theme park rides, can come close to.

The Cadets who flew were: Sean Hodges, Georgina Poulakis, Anthony Thomas and Rhys Thomas.

Air Cadets also undertake many other exciting activities, including adventure training, shooting, sport, field craft, project work and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, expeditions and camps to RAF stations around the United Kingdom.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734 or email aia1372@aircadets.org

JASON HORTON

Landlords to hold grand celebration party at the Six Bells!

THERE will be a celebration party at The Six Bells village pub and restaurant in Penmark this Saturday, September 15, after popular local publicans James Barnsley and Mark Tuck secured ownership of it.

Seven weeks ago, Enterprise Inns put it up for sale, and this week James and Mark, who currently run the pub and restaurant and had put in a bid for it, got the news that the deal had been confirmed.

James said: "We'd always wanted to pur-

chase The Six Bells. We've been running it since July 2008 under a lease with Enterprise Inns.

"Now we have the great news that our bid has been accepted."

Mark added: "We want to thank all the people who have supported us over the last four years and want to invite them to a celebration this Saturday evening.

"We're even closing the restaurant to accommodate everyone we hope will turn up to the party.

"Our hope is to now run The Six Bells for many years to come."

Warning for 4X4 owners

A WARNING has gone out to Vale 4X4 owners after a number of spare wheels were stolen from vehicles.

South Wales Police are advising owners of larger vehicles, such as vans and 4x4s, to make sure that their external-fitted spare wheels are properly secured.

The advice follows the theft of two spare wheels from Land Rover Freelander in St David's Avenue, Dinas Powys, on the night of Tuesday, September 4, and the car park of Vennings, Penarth, on the morning of Wednesday, September 5.

Spare wheels are often held in position by a metal cage secured to

the chassis, which thieves then cut to remove the wheel.

A police spokeswoman said: "We advise car owners to consider installing security devices in order to make their vehicles less attractive to thieves.

"The details of such devices can be obtained from the vehicle manufacturer or supplier.

"Alternatively, you can also check online to see what security products would be best suit your vehicle.

"South Wales Police urges residents to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity in their area by calling 101 or Crimestoppers, free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111."

All Wales report finds Vale Council 'performing well'

THIS year's 'Local Government Performance' report finds that the Vale Council is "performing well" in many areas – but there is room for improvement.

The report, from the Local Government Data Unit, examines and compares the performance of Wales' 22 county councils.

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, said: "The council has achieved some good results, but there are areas that we need to improve.

"The council is a top performer when it comes to offering assessments to carers of adults. We also ensure that 100 per cent of youngsters who have been looked after by the authority are in suitable accommodation when they are 19 years old.

"The percentage of statutory visits our social services teams made to children looked after by the council was another area where the council was found to be a top performer, alongside several other social services indicators where the council was one of the best performers in Wales.

"The performance of pupils at Vale Council-maintained schools mirrored the excellent A-Level and GCSE results achieved by local pupils, with the Vale found to be one of the top three education authority areas in Wales.

"It's also good to see that we are a top performer when it comes to clearing away fly-tipping, which is done within five days.

"The condition of our roads is a complaint we often hear from residents. The report finds that the percentage of our roads in a poor condition is average for

Wales – but this is not good enough, and the council is working hard to improve as many roads as possible.

"It is concerning to see that the Vale has the lowest level of affordable housing as a percentage of new homes, provided during the reporting period, and this is something we will be investigating.

"However, our performance on preventing homelessness is above average."

On the affordable housing issue, Coun Moore told The GEM that he had asked to see details of previous years, and all other relevant information, to find out

what had happened.

He continued: "Another area the council struggles with is the number of days taken to deliver disabled facilities grants. However, we are improving in this area and we will be pressing our officers for further improvement.

"The percentage of waste sent to landfill by the Vale was found to be higher than average, but the recent introduction of mixed recycling collections is already increasing the amount of waste that is recycled."

The full report can be seen at: www.dataunit-wales.gov.uk

Imps to hold black tie ball for birthday

CADOXTON Imps AFC are this year celebrating 40 years since the club was first founded by Graham Harris with a team of 10-year olds in the youth section of the old Barry and District League.

Having initially started under the name of Buttrills Rovers, Cadoxton Conservative Club provided the finance for the first shirts, hence the name of the club was born.

The club have been organising a series of events throughout the year, the next of which is a 40th anniversary black tie Ball at the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry on Saturday, October 6, which is almost to the day 40 years ago when the 10-year-olds played their first competitive

match. Soul band 'Dansette' will be providing the live music, followed by a disco.

The event includes a three-course dinner and wine. There will also be a prize raffle and an auction.

Tickets are available from the club, and from any Imps manager or committee member. Doors will be open at 7.30pm, with dinner served from 8pm.

The club are updating their Cadoxton Imps history book 1972/73 to 2007/08 as part of their 40th anniversary celebrations.

So if you have any photographs that are not in the current edition of the history book, contact the club to incorporate them in the new and updated edition.

MARTIN PURSALL, Chairman.

Open doors at Dyffryn Gardens

THIS weekend's 'Open Doors' event at Dyffryn Gardens will feature a number of special attractions for visitors who take advantage of the free admission.

Saturday (September 15, 10am-6pm):

- Meet the builders: interactive talks about the restoration of Dyffryn House – bend pipes, fix a plug and see how gold leaf is applied.
- Menter y Fro: Welsh speaking activities and a visit from Heini and

S4C's 'Cyw' character!

- Meet the volunteers of Dyffryn Gardens.
- South Wales Cacti Society (Glass House, 2pm-5pm).

- Solar viewing with Cardiff Astrological Society.

Sunday (September 16, 10am-6pm):

- Meet the volunteers of Dyffryn Gardens in the Exhibition Hall.
- Second hand book shop in the Exhibition Hall.

- South Wales Cacti Society – Glass House, 2pm-5pm.

- Solar viewing with Cardiff Astrological Society – South Terrace.

NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK

MONDAY 17 - SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2012

YOUR VISION MATTERS! *So make sure you get a regular eye test*

THE third National Eye Health Week will take place on from September 17-23 this year. Once again, eye

care charities and health professionals from across the UK are joining together to promote the importance of eye health and the need for regu-

lar sight tests for all. A spokesman for Eye Week explained: "Vision really matters."

"Sight is the sense people fear losing the most, yet many of us don't know the best way to look after our eyes."

"National Eye Health Week aims to change all that."

The theme this year is 'Vision Matters' and is to encourage people from every walk of life to take better care of their eyes and have regular sight tests.

Regular sight tests are essential for maintaining healthy eyes but there are other things you can do to look after your eyes.

Studies show that what we eat can affect our vision. Antioxidants can help to prevent retinal damage.

One anti-oxidant which is hugely beneficial is lutein. Foods recommended for eye health include: broad

leaf greens such as kale and spinach, brightly coloured fruit and veg such as corn, carrots, orange sweet peppers and oranges, oily fish like salmon, tuna and mackerel, broccoli and eggs.

Exercise can also reduce the risk of sight loss, and excessive alcohol use and smoking can have a detrimental effect on eye health.

Smoking also increases your risk of developing cataracts. The spokesman

added: "Protecting your eyes from the sun is very important and should not be underestimated."

"Under no circumstances should you ever look at the sun directly. "Your sunglasses

should have the CE mark on them which ensures that they are giving you the right level of ultraviolet

protection." *So this September, why not care for your vision and book an eye-sight test?*

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Celts show off new kit



BARRY Celts AFC under-13s football team show off their new football kits kindly sponsored by Roof Guard roof and maintenance, located in Rhoe.

Pictured are the team, coach Martin Bradshaw, and Matthew Doyle, director of Roof Guard, which has been serving local developers and the public since being established in 2000.

Matthew said it is always nice to put something back into the

community as a company, especially if helps out children's clubs.

The team are looking for players to join for the current season. The club aims to provide a fun and fair base for all players to enjoy playing football and to get an equal opportunity on the field, anyone interested should contact Martin Bradshaw on 07900327860.

MB

Barry Seconds are knocked out of Cup

BARRY RFC seconds dusted themselves off from the disappointment of Saturday's result and returned to action away from home against Rhiwbina who are two divisions above them.

With the game falling in midweek and several players unavailable due to work commitments, coach Rhidian Scott and interim manager Ken Chow were forced to ring the changes, bringing in no less than eight players into the starting line-up.

As expected, the game began at a fero-

cious pace, as tackles flew in from both sides.

No quarter was asked or given. In these early exchanges it was the more experienced home side that gained the upper hand, gaining a three point advantage after they punished some Barry indiscretion.

Barry responded with some solid set piece work from their forwards, but their cause was hampered by the early injury to Callum Scott, who was outstanding on the weekend.

Nevertheless, there were some superb play around the fringes, most notably from Owain Poole, Darren Deguara and Dave Hosking. The

backs were well-marshalled by the new half-back partnership of Joel Williams and Ashley Adams, using the combination of strong, direct running from their centres and the boot of Adam Lee.

However, it was Rhiwbina who were next on the scoresheet, as they extended their lead to ten after a well-converted try. At this point the away side were at risk of being cut adrift.

The green-and-whites never gave up, however, and their industry was rewarded when persistent pressure from their pack forced the home side deep into their own

run of play, however, the home side managed to convert turnover possession in their own half rapidly into another seven points, seemingly ending the contest.

Barry continued to press, however, despite the game being progressively more stop-start with the introduction of substitutes, the referee's persistent whistle, and the scrums becoming passive.

As the away backs threatened to string together a series of moves to threaten the home line, it was down to the big men to drive forward and set up the platform for substitute Alyn Evans to score his third try of the season. Lee failed with the conversion out wide.

Slightly against the

run of play, however, the home side managed to convert turnover possession in their own half rapidly into another seven points, seemingly ending the contest.

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Barry had one last good chance deep into the dying minutes of the match, when Adams collected his own kick and charged for the line, but some superb last ditch tackling by Rhiwbina ensured that they hung on for a narrow and hard fought victory, 17-12.

All the players clad in green-and-white on the night could return home with their head held high with a committed and spirited performance.

Team: Lee; T. Poole, Provis, Taylor, Thorne; Williams, Adams; Heard, Hosking, McTavish; Scott, Deguara; Jones, O. Poole, Rolfe (c)

Subs used: R. O'Sullivan, L. O'Sullivan, Parker, Evans

Man-of-the-match: O. Poole.

MM

Centurions triumph in friendly

SULLY Centurions played a return friendly fixture against last week's opponents, Miskin Manor, and chalked up another big victory.

Sully batted first and Nathan Baker soon set out his stall, finding the boundary regularly. Although losing opening partner Lloyd Bruce for 5, with the score on 8, he then took the total along to 56 with Alex Langrish, who was trapped LBW by Newbury for 8.

Shae Ellis lasted longer, though, and the pair enjoyed a hugely successful third wicket partnership of 157 before Ellis was the first of 3 run outs, going for a very good 56. David Goodway was also run out (for 7) and Baker's marvellous innings finally came to an end when he was bowled by Giles for 152 with the score on 241.

The innings contained seven 6s and twelve 4s. Adam Sylvester (7) completed the trio of run outs, with Iuan Ridout (1) Emma Davies (3 not out) and David Sylvester (0 not out) completing the Centurions innings, which closed on 261 for 8 after the 40 overs.

After tea Davies and Ridout opened the bowling but the Miskin openers took the score along to 86 before the first wicket fell - Owen was lbw to Goodway for 35.

Captain for day Ben Callow bagged the first of his two wickets when he had Giles caught by Terry Williams for 47 with the score on 113. Callow also took the next wicket, that of Thomas for 24, again via a catch, this time courtesy of Langrish to leave the scoreboard reading 124 for 3 in the 27th over.

The game was looking interesting at this stage, but the combination of six accurate overs from Williams (0-17)

and the introduction of Ellis changed the contest completely. Ellis totally demolished the opposition to finish with the remarkable figures of 5-12 off six overs as Miskin finished on 197 for 8.

All in all this was an enjoyable game of cricket in which everyone played their part.

Miskin Manor 197/8 Sully 261/8

JUNIOR ROUND UP

The weather played havoc with the club's junior fixture list in this season's Cardiff and Vale League.

It was probably the worst season weather wise for a number of years and it made it difficult to build any momentum as match after match was being rained off.

Despite this the club's three sides - under-11, 13 and 15s - all finished third in their respective divisions, just missing out on the top two finish required to make it into the League Finals Day.

A number of the club's juniors were selected to play representative cricket during the season for the Cardiff and the Vale regional squad and Wales. Adam Sylvester, Harri Edwards and Emma Davies were selected for Wales in their respective age groups while Tomos Edwards, Alex Langrish, Joe Hayer and Aron Arthur represented their region. Congratulations and well done to all of them.

In between the wind and the rain there were encouraging and positive signs for the club from the number of junior players who made the step up to senior cricket. They all equipped themselves very well at that level and showed great promise for the future.

If anyone is interested in playing for the juniors at Sully Centurions Cricket Club please e-mail us at centurioncricket@hotmail.co.uk.

MF

Barry under-15s start season with fine win

THE first game of the season is always a tough one and when your opposition is last season's District Champions it's even more challenging.

However, Barry under-15s showed that prior preparation and planning pays dividends and came away from this hard-fought encounter against Rumney RFC with a resounding 28-3 victory.

Having worked hard over the summer with weekly fitness sessions in Porthkerry Park and a full-on training day at the University of Glamorgan's Sports Park, the squad were ready to get back onto the paddock and put all this hard work to the test.

Barry kicked off up the hill and were soon backpedalling, with the Cardiff side looking as formidable as they did last season, smashing up the middle. The opening pressure resulted in a soft penalty that gave Rumney the opportunity to slot their first (and only) points of the game with a sweetly struck strike.

The home team shrugged off the incident

and then got stuck in with some formidable forward play against arguably a bigger, heavier pack. Some weak tackling from the visitors allowed winger, Callum Mickelsen to turn on the gas and charge his way over for Barry's first try, converted by captain Cameron Gibbon, playing at 13.

Rumney bounced back and came at Barry who once again soaked up the pressure, composed themselves and injected some serious pace into the last quarter, resulting in a well worked forward's try for No. 8 Scott Griffith. Gibbon's kick was good and the half ended 14-3.

The Cardiff team came out of the blocks looking to overturn the deficit and Barry, who aren't as wet behind the ears as a few seasons ago, were expecting this and knew that the game was far from won. Showing maturity and composure the home side took the game to Rumney and hit back hard from the outset.

Iwan Baker, playing at hooker, epitomised the squad's effort: having made a tackle soon after the kick off he then jacked the ball and blew through their remaining forwards, gaining 15

metres in the process. Rumney are a class side though and despite going down another converted try, courtesy of Ben Dwyer who played magnificently at No.5, they didn't capitulate and throw in the towel.

New signing Charlie Neale, exploited some weak Rumney handling to touch down between the posts and Gibbon's final conversion gave Barry a well deserved 28-3 victory.

With almost the whole squad in attendance all players had a run-out and from this performance there will be a number of heavily contested positions during the season - much to the delight of the coaching team!

Nine of the players have Vale Blues District commitments this year but the remainder of the squad demonstrated why this whole team is looking forward to another successful season.

This week the under-15s are away to Gwyned RFC with details of when the coach will be leaving the Reservoir Field to follow. For further information please check out Barry RFC's website.

IE

Barry RFC youth get local bragging rights after win

WITH Barry RFC boasting three home matches, the first for many seasons, and a fine sunny day to boot, the hopes of running rugby were high in this youth encounter.

On the back of three defeats the local derby against Dinas Powys was a need-to-win game. Both teams fielded restructured young sides and once again Barry were playing an out of position player at full back, flanker Andre Williamson, who played at centre last week and who now drew the number 15 short straw.

Barry won parity in the scrums but once again absent captain Luke O'Sullivan was missed in the lineup, Barry's one option only gave limited scope. It was Dinas who opened

up the scoring with a penalty and a try through their centre which was converted.

Barry answered with two penalties from Jordan Flynn which kept them in touch until half time.

Early in the second half centre Brad White made a break and had both inside and outside options in support, he chose scrum half Rhidian Mephram inside who raced for the line but was brought down heavily one metre from the line.

Not being held in the tackle he got to his feet and scored; this try went unconverted. Flynn slotted another three points from an opposition offence and put Barry in an uncomfortable four point lead.

In a heavily contested game final relief came when Jake Goodfellow who had been

immense in the loose stole yet another ball from the breakdown and broke through from thirty metres to score the game's final points Barry winning 19-10.

Team: Jamie Oaten, David Evans, Mathew O'Sullivan, Brad White, Jordan Flynn, Tom Adams, Jack Legg, Rhidian Mephram, Cambell Prosser, Rhys Burnett, Siôn Vidal (captain), Nathan Harris, John Miles, Jake Goodfellow, Jake Adams, Mitchell James, Blake Wall, André Williamson, Emyr Byrne and Keiron Davies.

The next game is on Saturday (September 15) away to Penarth in the first round of Cardiff and District Cup; bus leaves clubhouse at 1pm, kick off 2.30pm - please contact if you're not available.

MM

KC

St Athan tea party raises £1,500 for Penarth hospice



AN afternoon cream tea party at St Athan, organised by Catherine Gore, with the help of friends and family, raised more than £1,500 for the Marie Curie hospice at Penarth, in memory of her uncle, David Ruscoe.

"This could not have been achieved without the generosity of people donating tasty home-made cakes which were sold on the day and local businesses supporting the event with generous raffle prizes," it was reported.

"A fantastic day was had by all which brought the whole community together."

BEN'S BARBER SHOP RESULTS

IN our report of Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club's competition, unfortunately, the following Ben's Barber Shop Trophy results were omitted:

First place, Bethan Daly; second place, Mia Suddery; third place, Medi Western.

WHAT'S ON / in brief

YFC recruits

BRIDGEND YFC is organising a recruitment evening of fun and games on Tuesday, September 18, at Cefn Cribwr Royal British Legion (7.30pm-9.30pm). Contact club chairwoman Helen on 07722 827575; visit the club website www.btkc.uk or email

bridgendyfc.btkc.co.uk.

Harvest Festival EVERYONE is welcome at the Harvest Festival service in St Mary's Church, Bonvilston, on Sunday, September 23 at 6.30pm.

After the service, all are invited to stay for a 'bring and share supper' and learn about the planned

village history project.

Any harvest gifts can be left at the church between 10.30am and 4pm on Friday, September 21. All donations and offerings will be in aid of Huggard, a Cardiff charity caring for the homeless.

Family service ALL SAINTS Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, September 23 at 10am, on the theme of 'Jesus and the True Vine'.

The worship will be suitable for all ages, and refreshments will be served after the service. All are welcome.

Dinas Powys AGM

THE 40th annual general meeting of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern will be held on October 10 at the Parish Hall, Britway Road.

For further information, contact Wendy Lees, secretary, Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, Community Resource Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys, CF64 4QQ; telephone 02920 513700 or email wendy@dvcdinaspowys.com.

Locked in cabinet?

AT the last local elections, a pledge was made by Labour to be more open and transparent, and that the party would consider the views of local people as part of its decision-making process, including cabinet meetings.

Readers may be interested to know that in three of the last four cabinet meetings, public and press have been excluded from several items on the agenda (ie closed doors).

The latest item relates to yet more publicly-owned assets, namely the Barry Tourist (for-

merly Steam) Railway. Even the council minute is vague, especially about the use of Section 123 (disposal of land).

As these assets form part of the public purse, is there really a need for such secrecy, and more importantly, why are Labour not acting on their pledge?

There must be a better way of informing the public, at least in general, what the underlying issues are, without the whole matter being kept confidential.

Jonathan Osborne, FocusBARRY supporter (See Council Leader's column on page 13).

LET OUR LOCAL VENUES TAKE THE FESTIVE STRAIN...

Why not party out of the office this Christmas?

IT may still seem some way off, but the truth is that there are only 102 days remaining until Christmas 2012.

The office party is, of course, something of a festive tradition, as staff are rewarded for a year of hard work with a rare chance to let their hair down (with the qualified approval of the boss!)

But planning it can be a very stressful assignment for those staff members handed the onerous task of organising an office get-together that is fraught with pitfalls for the unwary.

There is so much to plan and consider, all subject to scrutiny from on high; not least the catering on a tight budget, choosing suitable music and entertainment and transforming the workplace environment into a venue fit for the festive occasion; all the while praying that nothing will go wrong and no tipsy revellers disgrace themselves on the day to incur the ire of the boss!

Why not cut out all the stress and anxiety at a stroke and let the professionals take the strain - by celebrating outside the office this year?

Not a street party, the weather won't be very accommodating. But with a whole host of fine dining, pub food, cocktail bars and entertainment venues spread throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend county borough, the choice really is limitless.

Christmas parties can be as grandiose or as laid back and informal as staff like. Whether it's just a

few drinks, snacks, and the exchanging of gifts, or a formal dinner with live entertainment, the Vale has something for your company.

So give yourself one less problem to think about and book a local venue for your Christmas party...

Let the professionals take the weight off your shoulders, and do all the worrying for you.

And you won't have to scrub the wine stains out of the office carpet afterwards either!

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Christmas Party Guide

The Highwayman Inn
FONMON, RHOOSE



CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS

Available December 2012

Thursday, Friday & Saturday Nights
including entertainment (Fri & Sat only)
3 COURSE MENU ONLY £19.95

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday Nights
3 COURSE MENU ONLY £16.95

CHRISTMAS DAY
5 COURSE MEAL
£49.50 Adults. Children (under 12) half price £24.75

OVER 60's SPECIAL MENU
Monday - Friday: 12 noon - 3pm
Just a small example: Hand Battered Cod, Ham, Egg & Chips, 6oz Gammon Steak, Steak & Ale Pie, Scampi, Liver & Onions - Plus many more!

Minibus service available for diners - phone for details
Free to Rhose, Penmark and Aberthaw

Nurston, Nr. Rhose
Tel. 01446 710205/07596 630057
www.highwayman-pub.com

The Casa Paco

1 BROAD STREET PARADE, BARRY

Available from 1st December
Christmas Party Menu

Monday-Saturday 6.30-9pm
Deep fried Brie with conserve
Prawn cocktail
Melon with port (or plain melon crown)
Mushrooms cooked in Garlic Butter
Farmhouse Paté served with Chutney
Soup of the day
Creamy Stilton Mushrooms
.....
Roast Glamorgan Turkey with Chipolata, served with Cranberry & Apricot stuffing
Rack of Welsh Lamb with Port & Redcurrant Sauce
Chicken Princess (breast of chicken cooked in a white wine and cheese sauce)
Grilled Scotch Fillet Steak (6oz), plain or with a choice of Au Poivre Sauce (creamy pepper), Champignon Sauce (rich mushroom) or Diane Sauce (onion, mushroom, wine & tomato)
Fresh Salmon served with parsley and lemon sauce
All served with vegetables of the day and potatoes
.....
Choice from the Sweet Trolley
.....
Coffee, Dinner Mint and Mince Pie
Friday & Saturday £28.50 per person
Monday to Thursday £22.50 per person

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU
Selected dates only
4 Courses £19.95
Booking Essential

2 FOR 1 SPECIAL
2 x 3 Course Meals for only £29.95
Available Tues to Thurs until 30.11.12
We will be closed on Christmas Eve.
Open New Years Eve.
01446 732009

SHIP INN



Family Food at Affordable Prices
New Autumn/Winter Menu
Coming Soon
served every day 11 am - 9 pm

SUNDAY ROAST
2 for £10 - Served til 9pm
Free indoor play area for the children

HALLOWEEN PARTY
Friday, 26th October
Fancy Dress - Disco
Fun and Games for all the family!

Now taking bookings for Christmas

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION PARTIES
2 courses £9.99
3 courses £12.99
Everyone attending a Christmas Party will receive a voucher booklet worth over £100 to enjoy at Hungry Horse

CHRISTMAS DAY
Five Courses
Adults £22.99 - Children £4.49
Please call for menus and bookings

HARBOUR ROAD
BARRY, CF625SB
Tel. 01446 729060



The Tall Ship Festival draws large crowds to Barry Waterfront – along with some pirates!

THIS summer, the Vale has been blessed with a number of high-profile events for the public – the Wartime Weekend, the National Eisteddfod, the Vale of Glamorgan Show and, most recently, the annual Tall Ship Festival.

The Vale Council arranged musical entertainment at Barry Waterfront to complement activities on the Dock.

Local photographer, Andy Wicks, was on hand to provide a pictorial record of the weekend.



**IMAGES
by ANDY
WICKS**
Telephone
07855 374478



PORTHCAWL'S INVITE TO SECRET GARDEN PARTY

MUSIC, poetry, pirates and princesses will all be in Porthcawl town centre this Saturday, September 15.

From 2pm, the area around the John Street bandstand and James Street will be transformed into green space, with performing artists, local bands, children's entertainment plus local food and Fairtrade drinks to create a garden-party atmosphere.

The event is being organised by local charity Sustainable Wales, SUSSED, Guttridge's the Florist, Black River Arts, and BBC's arts department and library services.

The afternoon is designed for

children and after 6pm for over-16s. Entitled: 'The Secret Garden', it will also feature Sustainable Wales' wacky invention: The Smoothie Bike!

This uses your own pedal-power to create delicious fruit drinks. Michael Gore, project support officer, said: "Children should don their best fancy dress for an afternoon of stories, games, face painting and garden party food, with prizes for the best dressed pirate and princess."

"Adults should bring dancing shoes and assign a designated driver, as Sustainable Wales will also be serving local beer from a Cardiff-based micro-brewery, Pimms and Fairtrade

wine. With 22 performing artists, you're sure to find something to your taste."

Zoe Morrison, a volunteer at SUSSED, said: "I'll definitely be bringing my kids! At last, here's an all-the-family event that makes good use of The Porthcawl Bandstand."

The organisers suggest that people bring their own picnic chairs.

TIMES: 3pm-5pm - pirates and princesses party. Adults: 7.30pm-11pm - entertainment from the band stand.

The Secret Garden will also include: a tombola, raffle, vegetable stall, and a stall selling tools to raise money for Africa - 'Tools for Self Reliance' (<http://www.tfsrcymru.org.uk>).

Battling James conquers Brecon Beacons for DoE

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

HAVING initially completed the first half of the physical aspect of his Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) award in the Brecon Beacons in quick time (The GEM, August 23), Flemingstone's James Yorke-Wade has now completed the 32km trek and is ready for the next challenge.

The 25-year-old took on the gold award in his unadapted wheelchair with help from his friends at Barry Air Cadets, finishing on Sunday, September 2.

His sister, Emily Yorke-Wade, told The GEM that James had performed all the required tasks. She said: "It's good news, he completed it all. In the final weekend he did 10k on the Saturday and 4k on the Sunday."

"He then had to help supervise putting up a tent and had to demonstrate his cooking skills by cooking burgers and sausages for the team."

Good weather greeted the trekkers on the Saturday, but Sunday was damp and drizzly, so James, the eight-strong team of cadets, their DoE assessor and his dog Socks, had to get their waterproofs out.

The former Ysgol Sant Curing pupil has cerebral palsy, as well as suffering from hydrocephalus and incomplete lung capacity.

He has spent seven of his 25 years at Great Ormond Street Hospital, and spent 18 months



James and friends from the Barry Air Cadets (and Socks the dog) celebrate the end of their Brecon Beacons challenge.

from December 2010 recovering from a severe bout of pneumonia.

Given his previous struggles, Emily says the family are very proud of what he has achieved.

She added: "It's just another item to add to his list of achievements. It was a struggle at times, and he can be pretty stubborn, but he got there in the end."

James now has to complete the residential part of the process, and later this year he will spend four days in Ypres, Belgium, with one of his carers, Lee Burtie, in order to do so.

Once he has done that, he will be ready to realise his ambition of attending St James Palace to receive his award from the Duke.

He will also soon be starting the second year of his Spanish Diploma, and he continues to search for voluntary work to help him gain experience of the working world.



ABOVE: James prepares a treat for his team for the cooking part of the Duke of Edinburgh gold award.

Pencoed under-12s open new season with a five-try victory

PENCOED under-12s travelled to the Parish ground to take on a resurgent Maesteg side, which has taken on players from recently disbanded Maesteg Celtic.

The home side were in good form after a 37-0 win over Beddau last weekend.

This was Pencoed's first game of the season with some new recruits to add numbers to a side that only lost one game last season.

Newcomers were Joseph Jones from Barry RFC, who represented the impressive Vale District Schools and, new to club rugby, Rhys Sanderson and Rhys Howells.

Rhys represented the Welsh schoolboys with his new team mates Mikey Bosley, Josh Sands, Sam Costellow. The visitors started off well with quick handling and attacked into the Maestegs 22.

A kick from defence was returned with an excellent three-quarter attack, with Mikey Bosley breaking through the Maesteg defence and offloading to Sam Costellow, who ran in

under the posts.

Maesteg were committed at the breakdowns and were winning ball but there was no way through an impressive Pencoed defence.

Tackling from Brogan Parish, Ethan Davies and Rhys Bending ensured turnover ball to let the talented backs create some terrific running rugby.

One such attack saw Tom Bending join the line from fullback to go over for Pencoed's second try.

Maesteg showed how much they have developed and went on a marauding forwards attack. Phase after phase, they kept driving and went over for a well-deserved try.

Pencoed settled back into the well-drilled side they are renowned for, and the forwards began to take control. Cael Chamberlain and Rhys Spurgeon and Rhys Bending drove the Maesteg players off the rucks time after time.

Quick ball set those backs off again with Josh Sands busting through the middle to offload to his centre partner Mikey Bosley, who side-stepped through the drifting defence to increase the

lead.

Before the half time whistle, Tyron Harding picked up the ball well inside his half, from another Maesteg attacking mistake and broke through a tackle to run in a 60-metre try to the roar of the crowd.

With some changes made, Pencoed started the second half a bit scrappy. This new set of players took time to settle and Maesteg were having the best of the battle at close quarters.

Still strong in the tackle area, the visitors were not making it easy and Maesteg just could not break the gain line.

However, Pencoed got back to some well-drilled moves and their forwards stepped up a gear.

Cael Chamberlain, now at No 8, was impressive at he picked from the base of the scrum and drove into the home side.

New boys Joseph Jones and Rhys Sanderson were committed and impressive in the loose.

Lineouts moves kept things going forward with pressure on the try line becoming more intense. Excellent defence from the home side kept Pencoed out

until a superb charge down by Mikey Bosley, who gathered to go over for Pencoed's fifth try for a final score of 33-7.

This was a creditable opening victory played with great spirit from both sides. Pencoed's elusive backs were too good for the opposition on the day, and the forwards played as a unit and secured great ball. Well done lads.

Team: Mickey Bosley, Josh Sands, Sam Costellow, Dan John, Jack Rowlands, Tyron Harding, Owain Johns, Ethan Davies, Ben Sullivan, Cael Chamberlain, Levi Davies, Rhys Spurgeon, Brogan Parrish, Rhys Bending, Tom Bending; subs - Ben Jones, Oliver Lewis, Jonathan Carr, Ioan Richards, Rhys Howells, Joseph Jones, Rhys Sanderson, Connor Mellish, Wil Jervis.

MB

UNDER-10s WIN Pencoed under-10s faced off against Bridgend Athletic and ran out winners, 34-21.

Tries came from Sam Hayman-Tucker (four), Kae Kriggar and Jack Evans, with two conversions from Sam.

TR

Ath under-11s denied at death

BRIDGEND Athletic under-11s welcomed Rumney to a sunny Newbridge Fields.

The Ath started well, showing good hands and running the ball from deep. A strong run up the middle from Morgan Bennett saw him link with Dewi Harding, and great support from Liam Gully saw him outstrip the last defender for a great opening try.

The next phase of play from the Ath showed superb teamwork, with the ball going through the hands of Will Thomas, Oli Raynor and Bennett before Isaac Watkins released Gully to score his second of the game.

Rumney starting throwing the ball wide and were eventually rewarded with their first try.

The Ath put together some good phases but couldn't convert the pressure into points.

The visitors ran hard at the Ath defence but great cover from Bromley and Owen Thomas kept them out. Ath attacked again, Gully came close and offloaded to Iwan Hill who was in touch just

short of the line.

The second half started with Rumney stepping up a gear and they ran through the Ath defence to level the game. Ath pushed again and Gully read the play and made a lovely interception, fed Watkins, whose quick hands to Sam Ralph saw him make good ground and give quick ball to Blake Dando, allowing him to crash over to retake the lead.

Rumney scored next but from the restart, Jules Burn took clean ball and made good yards. Will Thomas thundered up field and Owen Thomas used great basketball skills to keep the ball in play, palming the ball back to Tom Jones who was held out by superb Rumney defence.

Rumney cleared their lines only for the Ath to put a loose clearance kick into midfield, which the visitors picked up and sprinted clear to take the lead.

The Ath were put under pressure again from the restart, and Rumney were starting to dominate at the breakdown and scored again. It was Bromley again for the Ath making the hard yards,

and great support from Jules Burn saw him sprint through to score a well-deserved try.

From a set piece, the Ath threw wide ball and Owen Thomas managed to smuggle the ball over the line to level the game.

Rumney were awarded a penalty five metres out and they made no mistake in converting this opportunity and re-took the lead.

Ath fought back strongly. Great pace from Will Thomas and Oli Raynor saw Dewi Harding score and again the Ath levelled the match. Rumney threw everything they had at the Ath defence.

Kieran Richards and Josh Llewellyn showed good strength thwarting the main attack. Quick hands from Rumney saw them crash over again.

They pressured again and the Ath failed to clear their lines, the visitors pouncing on the opportunity and scoring again in the dying seconds to round off a great game of rugby.

Final score: Ath under-11s 35, Rumney under-11s 40.

LH

Paul Child at the Pavilion!

AN evening of homegrown entertainment is promised at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on Friday, September 14, when Paul Child returns to the venue with The Welsh Television Orchestra.

Paul is touring the country's theatres to mark the release of his two latest CDs: *The King Of Wales* and *Other Stories* and In Concert with The Welsh Television Orchestra.

They are both released this month and will be available in all leading stores and supermarkets.

On returning to

Porthcawl, Paul said: "I love the Pavilion. I first played there in 1989 with my rock band, Shy Warrior. These days I have slightly less hair and the songs are a bit more middle of the road!"

Joining him on the September 14 show will be Welsh television comedian Phil Evans.

On this tour, Paul Child will also be giving local up and coming acts the opportunity to perform in a theatre with a live orchestra.

Rising stars Jimmy Webb and Laura Jayne Davies will also be performing on the night.

Lions launch charity trust

LLANTWIT MAJOR and Cowbridge Lions Club has announced the formation of a charitable trust which is incorporated into the club and will be the arm of the club which raises money and makes donations to charitable causes.

The public face of the club will not change and all activities which the club takes part in will not change, but the advantages of making the change outweigh the increased administration required.

The changes will remove the ambiguity that previously existed when the club puts on events as to whether or not the club was entitled to charity rates when booking facilities or raising money from donations.

With the formation of the trust, this ambiguity has been removed. The other main advantage is that donations can now attract gift aid, providing the donor pays income tax at the standard rate.

As the Lions Club is a voluntary organisation,

all of the money placed into the trust will be available for donations to charitable causes, a certain amount of which will still be available for donation to non-charitable causes, but this will come from the club, rather than the trust.

The Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club does not have any events planned for this month, but October sees a full programme with a book sale and diabetes screening session in Llantwit Major on October 6, and on October 13, the club has organised a concert by the Caldicot Male Voice Choir with guest soloist Sirol Burford in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major.

Tickets are available from club members or Sloan & Co, The Precinct, Llantwit Major and are priced at £8 each.

If you would like to know more about these events or about the Lions Club in general, contact the club on 0845 833 6763 or via their website, www.lmandclions.org.uk or Facebook at www.facebook.com/lmandclions.

DAVID EDWARDS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 19 September 2012

Vale of Glamorgan Council Hafod Housing Association Newydd Housing Association
Gildred House Vale and Pen Housing Association



To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing
Department Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry
CF63 4RU or **Newydd Housing Association**
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

BRECON COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 202359
Suit for a single person or couple over 60
Priority for applicants with mobility issues
• One-bed level access flat
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Community alarm
Rent £97.31 pw inc water service & alarm charges

CWRT MELIN Y RHOS, BARRY (2)



H4U reference 1038717
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets
• 2x one-bed flats
• 1st & 2nd floors-no lift
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
• Communal access
• Parking
Rent £73.88 per week including service charges

CWRT TREM YR YNYS, BARRY



H4U reference 992203
Suitable for a single person or couple
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor (no lift)
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
• Parking
Rent £76.45 per week including service charge

FIELDVIEW CLOSE, PENARTH



H4U reference 1094539
Suitable for a family
• Two-bedroom house
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
• Enclosed rear garden
• Parking
Rent £76.45 per week including service charges

GOWER COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 204917
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
Unsuitable for level showering access needs
• One-bed flat (GF)
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Community alarm
Rent £87.72 pw inc water service & alarm charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH



H4U reference 988824
Suitable for a single person over 55 - no pets
• Studio apartment
• First floor (no lift)
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
• Scheme Co-ordinator
• Communal access
Rent £105.45 per week inc. heating and service charges and water rates

HANOVER COURT, BARRY



H4U reference 1094435
Suit for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need) - no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Scheme Manager & alarm
• Walk-in shower
Rent £97.21 per week including service charge

HAVANT CLOSE, RHOOSE



H4U Reference 1088295
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family
• Two-bed flat
• Upstairs
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
Rent £87.12 per week including service charge

LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY



H4U reference 974835
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
• Enclosed rear garden
• Parking
Rent £76.45 per week including service charge

OGMORE PLACE, BARRY



H4U Reference 218735
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens
Rent £94.79 per week including water charges

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH



H4U Reference 242300
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
• One-bed flat (GF)
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Water meter
• On-site warden & alarm
Rent £78.73 pw inc alarm warden & service chgs

ST CATHERINES COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 224735
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens
Rent £95.25 per week including water charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Aeron Close	82	Gold	28/05/12
Avocet Court	61	Gold	15/01/11
Coychurch Rise	38	Gold	28/05/12
Heddy Llongau	47	Silver	30/04/12
Magellan Close	74	Gold	27/02/12
Manorbier Court	27	Gold	20/03/12
Philippa Fresh Court	47	Silver	21/06/12
Portlun Close	79	Gold+	06/10/11
St Dyfrig Road	64	Gold	17/01/12
Ty Cerig	17	Silver	06/04/12
Williams Crescent	58	Gold+	04/03/11

PLASSEY STREET, PENARTH

Hafod Housing Association Limited is developing a scheme of sixteen one and two-bedroom flats in Plassey Street, Penarth, which will be available for letting in late September 2012.

The block is part of a scheme of flats for rent and low cost home ownership.

We invite members of the HOMES4U scheme only to submit expressions of interest to rent in this scheme and to ensure those are received by Wednesday 19 September.

Failure to meet the closing date will mean that your request for consideration will not be included in the shortlisting process.



Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

Please be aware of the above when making bids for properties in this advert as this may affect how much rent you pay.

Examples

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

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Pencoed RFC edged out by Bryncoch

THE Pencoed players lined up to honour front row forward Nicky Hawkins who was clapped onto the field for his Pencoed 'Cap' game against Bryncoch – the player having joined the youth section of the club at 16 years of age.

He has now gone on to play 12 seasons for the club at senior level.

Pencoed started well, wing Richie Samuel claiming a short kick ahead to touch down in the corner, Marc Davies adding a fine conversion, before increasing the home lead to 10-0 with a penalty.

Pencoed then conceded a soft try after destroying a Bryncoch scrum in the Pencoed 22 – the visitors allowed to slip away down the blind-side for the score.

The visitors then returned to the attack and drove over through their pack from close range to reduce the arrears to 13-12.

Davies then put



Both packs battle for possession. Photograph by: JULIE HANCOCK.

Pencoed 16-12 in front after 30 minutes with a penalty. They increased their lead with No8 Gareth Prentice forcing his way over following a scrum pick up.

Approaching the interval Pencoed conceded another soft try, failing to deal with a speculative cross kick in their own 22, but led 21-17 at the break.

A yellow card for the home side early in the second half was ultimately to cost them the match, conceding two tries during this period for Bryncoch to lead 21-31.

Constant late pressure from Pencoed brought them some reward with

two late tries, but unfortunately this was not enough as a couple of penalty chances went astray.

Some consolation in this 33-34 defeat was the try bonus point gained along with the losing bonus point.

On Saturday the team are away at Morriston.

The youth team opened their Ospreys League programme at a higher level gaining a 13-11 victory at Tonmawr with the last kick of the match.

Shane Izatt and Rhys Williams got the Pencoed tries, while Adam Williams kicking the all important penalty goal. **TR**

Bryncoch Youth edged out by Sports

Bridgend Sports Youth 20
Bryncoch Youth 12

BRYNCOCH visited Bridgend Sports for a highly entertaining pre-season friendly.

Bryncoch started slowly and soon found themselves a try down. They were soon two tries down, after they lost their own lineup in their 22.

This seemed to stir the Bryncoch team and they started to play some attractive attacking rugby with Corey Bate, Tyler Thomas and Zack James making some good breaks; however, the Sports defence remained solid.

The final 10 minutes of the half saw Bryncoch play with 14 men after Connor Law was yellow carded, but their defence held tight to end the half 10 points down.

The Sports were quickly on the board again in the second half as from the kick off, the ball was moved up the field before going through the hands for a try out wide.

Bryncoch responded with a try of their own after some good pressure in the Sports 22 resulted in the ball being kicked upfield. This was gathered by No.8 Liam Thomas, who ran back up the field, offloaded to flanker Ryan James, and was there to receive the loss pass back and score in the corner.

The Sports again responded with another try.

Bryncoch had the final score after a penalty was awarded just outside the Sports 22. Scrum-half Tom Black lined up his attackers and tapped the ball, did a dummy pass, and ran in unopposed under the posts.

Paul Short added the conversion.

Bryncoch's man of the match was Connor Law for his impressive work at the break downs and excellent tackling.

BRYNCOCH YOUTH OVERRUN
Bryncoch youth played host to Kenfig Hill in what was a cracking game of rugby, Bryncoch coming up short 29-0.

Bryncoch started the most spritely with some good charging runs by prop Shane Jones and some excellent positional kicking by outside half Paul Short; unfortunately Kenfig Hill's defence was solid at kept them at bay.

Kenfig Hill then started to dominate possession and territory but the whole Bryncoch team tackled everything that came their way and thwarted attack after attack.

However with the half coming to a close a penalty was awarded inside the Bryncoch 22 which was quickly taken.

Connor Law looked to have made a try saving tackle but failed to hold on and Kenfig Hill's No.8 just managed to crawl over the line, the conversion was added.

The second half started much as the first had ended with Kenfig Hill dominating possession and territory, and their second try came after a period of pressure from Bryncoch resulted in a turnover ball which was kicked up field by Lloyd Bradley.

Bryncoch failed to gather the ball which resulted in Kenfig Hill's centre gathering the ball and offloading to full back Aaron Grabham to score in the corner.

Bryncoch were reduced to 14 players with 15 minutes to go as centre Tyler Thomas got injured making another trademark break through midfield.

Kenfig Hill used the extra man to wear down the Bryncoch defence and a break by their centre and an offload to Grabham gave him his second try; the conversion was also successful.

Grabham got his third after the ball was again kicked on from a Kenfig Hill lineup and some confusion in Bryncoch's defence allowed Grabham to gather the ball and again score out wide.

With time almost out Lloyd Bradley made a sniping run down the touch line, but Bryncoch's Paul Short chased him down across the field, tackled him and stole the ball, and that concluded a pulsating match.

Bryncoch's man of the match award was shared between Shane Jones, for his powerful running and Paul Short for his tackling and positional kicking.

Bryncoch entertain Resolven on Saturday. **HR**

Defeat for Kenfig Hill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

Kenfig Hill RFC would like to offer their appreciation to the paramedic and ambulance crew who attended to Curtis Kerton who suffered a neck injury in the closing moments of the game.

The club would also like to thank the Bedwas first aider who assisted Mules first aider Gareth John and stayed with Curtis until the ambulance left. Happily Curtis was able to leave hospital later that evening.

KENFIG HILL/CORNELLY YOUTH V BRYNCOCH

The Youth gave the younger members of their squad a run out in this friendly against Bryncoch and were rewarded with an impressive display as they defeated the home side 29-0.

Head coach Ben John said he was impressed with the performance of the whole team who have a bright future ahead of them.

Luke Griffiths gave a man of the match performance at outside half controlling the game with good performances by Ryan Jones, Josh Rowland and Ellis Greenslade.

Scorers Kenfig Hill/Cornelly: Aaron Grabham (3), Evan Williams, Lloyd Bradley, Luke Griffiths (2 conversions).

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ABOVE: Scott Waller looks for the break



Tylon Mafi runs for the line.

Mules under-11s' victory at home to Bridgend Athletic

THE opening game of the season promised to be a tough encounter against a well-drilled Mules side – the game did not disappoint in an end-to-end, entertaining spectacle.

The Mules started strongly attacking the Ath line, but the Ath defence was up to the initial challenge.

Will Thomas made good yards with great strong running with Mason Edwards and Kieran Richards following suit, taking the ball into the Mules' 22.

Captain Bobby Bromley picked up the ball and powered over for the first try of the game.

Following the restart, the Ath chased well and pressure from Jules Burn earned the Ath a scrum five metres out. A quick ball out to Will Thomas saw him crash over for the Ath's second try.

This try seemed to inspire the Mules into action. After many phases of play, they found themselves just short of the Ath line.

A tap penalty finally resulted in the Mules pulling one back. The

Mules pushed hard for the equaliser, and another tap penalty saw them crash over to level the scores.

Again, good hands from Edwards saw the ball reach Oli Raynor to see the Ath retake the lead. The Mules fired up the game once more and scored a lovely try out wide to level the scores at half time.

The second half started much like the first, with both teams playing some good rugby. The Mules threw a wide ball and their speedy winger ran in a great try to take the lead.

The next phase of the game was a scrappy affair with both teams making handling errors.

Good pressure from Emyr Anthony gave the Ath possession. A good clearance kick from Liam Gully finally saw the Ath make ground up field.

The Mules threw everyone forward, but some solid defence from the Ath prevented a further score.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 20
Bridgend Athletic 15. **LH**

Depleted Phoenix lose to experienced 'Sisters'

PENCOED PHOENIX travelled to the Dulais Valley to meet a vastly more experienced Seven Sisters side strengthened by the recruitment of several Gorseion and Kidwelly players.

As anticipated this was to prove a hard match for Phoenix against a side fresh from Premier League involvement.

The scoreline did not

do justice to a Phoenix performance full of character, the second half try count of two tries to one speaking volumes for the commitment of this under-strength Phoenix side.

Despite the outcome the Phoenix pack on occasion had the bigger Seven Sisters pack in disarray at the set scrum. The front row of Alana Shakespeare, Molly Humphreys and Leigh Francis worked tirelessly throughout, hooker Humphreys a valuable

addition to the Phoenix squad.

Second rows Hannah Brunskill and Beth Price supplemented their front row's efforts, with the back row of Kathryn Stonehouse, skipper Marina Newth and Nat O'Shea getting through a lot of work in the tackle area, and O'Shea once again got on the scoresheet.

Half backs Louise Jones and Robyn Wilkins showed good control, with the talented Wilkins returning from a long-term injury as if she had never been away, slotting a tricky conversion from O'Shea's try.

Centres Katie Murphy and Amy Stevens, despite taking a couple of head high tackles, never shirked their midfield duties, putting in a number of telling tackles of their own.

The Phoenix back three of Naiara Zubikari, Hannah Seward and Stephanie Niblett had very little opportunity in attack but defended well. A further plus for Phoenix was Sarah Hughes overcoming injury to take up the full back role in the dying minutes.

Next up for the Phoenix women is the long journey to Caernarfon on September 23. **TR**

There are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7pm with Graham Jones. All welcome. Contact Graham Jones (01446 775952), Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) or David Newman (01656 649138). Afternoon lessons start on Thursday September 27 at 2pm, also at Noltan Church Hall. John Evans will be giving lessons for beginners and those who have played some bridge and would like to improve their bidding and card play. For more details contact John on 01656 880372. **DN**

Bridge results

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

Wednesday September 5: First – Tony Ratcliff and Julian Pottage; second – Mary Moore and Di Jones; third – John Henson and Geoff Tinkler.

Friday September 7: North South: First – Norma and David Newman; second – Dian Jones and Pat Coghill; third – Bill Turner and Ray Smith. East West: First – John Henson and Terry Dolan; second – Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; third – Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnoch.



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Closing date for applications Friday, October 1st.

Thank You

MAVIS AUSTIN

I would like to thank all my family, friends and grandchildren for all my lovely presents and for coming to my party - what a wonderful night.

A special mention to Jack Austin for his 18th Birthday on September 21st.

God Bless You All, Mavis the Rave

Public Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION TO REMAIN LICENSE UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE Licensing Act 2003

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NEWS UPDATE FROM THE BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

New faces for a new term - and a new school year!



LEFT: The new year-7 pupils looked incredibly smart in their uniforms as they began their first day with a special assembly at Barry Comprehensive School.

BARRY Comprehensive School welcomed lots of new faces at the start of the new school year.

The year-7 pupils looked incredibly smart in their uniforms as they began their first day with a special assembly. After plenty of information, advice and encouragement they set off to have their photographs taken before finding their way to their new classrooms.

After the GCSE results in the summer, there was a huge queue of students ready to sign up to join the sixth form, so it was no surprise to see another massive intake into year-12.

Students from the local secondary schools chose to continue their studies at Barry Comprehensive and were joined by students from Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovakia and Spain.

The new sixth formers followed an induction programme focussing on team building and aims and aspirations.

The school is also proud to welcome a new group of teaching staff this September. The new group includes experienced staff and newly qualified teachers.

We are extremely pleased with the high calibre of the new appointments and feel sure the new staff members will contribute greatly to their individual departments and to school life in general.

Students and staff were particularly pleased to welcome their new head teacher, Gerard McNamara, as he officially began his new post. Mr McNamara commented: "I am very excited to begin working at Barry Comprehensive."

"It is a successful community school that has a family feel which is a very important part of its identity. In school, everyone has an opportunity to succeed and I will strive to ensure all students achieve their utmost."

AC



Some of the new teachers joining Barry Comprehensive School

The Vale MP reveals worrying data on delay in cancer treatment

READER Mr G Smith, of Llantwit Major, responded in last week's GEM to my previous article that highlighted the failure of the Welsh Government to meet cancer waiting time targets and which reported that the waiting times in England are much better.

Firstly, I very much respect Mr Smith's points relating to the structure of the NHS and pay tribute to his principled position. I have had the pleasure of

meeting Mr Smith in the past, and appreciate his strong beliefs.

However, my article in The GEM focused on outcomes such as the delay to receive cancer treatment, or to see a specialist.

My research was prompted by an increase in the numbers of people that have contacted me worried about the wait they are experiencing.

Official data shows that the waiting times in Wales are alarming.

It is tragic that in Wales many people are waiting longer than two months before seeing a cancer specialist, after referral from a GP.

In England, the target waiting time is one month or less.

Since my GEM article, I have been asked by other constituents to query their cancer care and to push for access to other drugs and treatment that are readily available to patients in England, but not here in Wales.

Again, the latest figures show that the Welsh Government spends £2,905 per incidence on cancer drugs, where the UK average is £3,398 per case.

I hope this highlights that I am not focused on structures.

This week, I called for a debate in Parliament to consider the different approaches to cancer care across all the nations of the UK.

I highlighted to the Minister that if you live in the Vale (or anywhere in Wales) you are likely to wait longer for treatment, will not have ready access to new drugs as is the case in England and, tragically, face lower mortality rates.

I hope readers will support my campaign challenging the Welsh Government to support our doctors and nurses to deliver better cancer treatment. Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan.

BIBLES PRESENTED TO LOCAL MAYORS



THE Vale Mayor, Coun Eric Hacker, recently welcomed local town mayors to the Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall, where they were presented with Bibles by the area chairman of Gideons International, Mr Gareth Rees.

In the photo (above) are, left to right: Coun Les Sword, Barry Town Mayor; Coun Eric Hacker; Mr Gareth Rees, Gideons International; Coun Ann Matthews, Llantwit Major Town Mayor and Coun Phillip Rapier, Penarth Town Mayor.

SUPPORT FOR CARNIVAL PLAN

I WRITE to express my support for moves to bring back the Barry Carnival.

Local boy Dean Snooks is trying to get people together to form a carnival committee and I think this would be a brilliant idea. Not only would it be good fun, but it would also boost community spirit.

Many people have very many happy memories of the carnival, including myself, and it would be great if we could see it again.

Perhaps there may be a local business who would like to come forward and sponsor the event to help get it off the ground? If anyone is interested will they please give me a call on 01446 744792.

Coun Robert Bertin, Barry

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DESPITE overcast conditions in the height of summer, Llandow Kart Club's championship programme continued to turn up the heat as the regular classes were joined by Formula Blue for the August meeting.

Five Bambino drivers opened the proceedings, with regulars Shayne Clarke, Jakob Chamberlain, Brooklyn Thomas and Matthew Rees all achieving another gold award, while Oliver Thomas added another silver level reward.

While a little down on recent numbers, the combined Cadet classes still boasted 20 runners, but found themselves

merged for the duration of the meeting on this occasion. The Comer-powered runners were headed by Tom Rawlings and Lewis Griffiths in the heats, before the latter backed up his two earlier wins with further success in the final. Rawlings joined him on the podium, coming home just 0.021secs shy of the win, while Tommy Foster completed the podium after crossing the line in seventh place.

The bigger Honda Cadet class saw Rosses Thomas and Deal come home at the head of the field in the heats, but it was reigning Welsh champion Hugo Holmes

who came out on top when it mattered in the main event. Deal was second in the final, ahead of Ethan Ling and Alex Rees, with Thomas only fifth as the class again proved to be closely matched.

Just four drivers turned out in Honda Junior but, in the absence of season-long frontrunner Ben Stevens, the way was open for some of his pursuers to get the rare taste of victory. Tom Ford claimed the first two heats, but Thomas Croydon came out on top third time around, and then repeat-

ed the feat in the final to claim his first winner's trophy. Ford was only a couple of seconds adrift at the flag, with Patrick Hill a little further back as he completed the podium while still on his novice plates. Fellow rookie Cristiano Nardone gained further experience as he continued to edge closer to his rivals.

Regular frontrunner Ross Chell returned to the Junior TKM fray, and showed the class that had been missing in July as he romped to a clean sweep of wins in the heats. However, it all

went wrong for the champion in the final as he crossed the line in seventh place after dropping to the tail of the field on lap two. Ryan Edwards was quick to capitalise, taking the win ahead of fellow July frontrunners Louis Griffiths-Walker and Yousuf Ashraf.

Junior and Mini Max again merged to form a six-kart grid, with novice Ceran Sokhi turning the tables on Jodie Handford to sweep the latter over the course of the day. Steven Handford returned from national championship

action to claim the first two heats in Junior Max, but failed to finish the third race and then had to watch Rob Ellis repeat at P1 in the final as he failed to complete a lap. Ellis, who had also come out on top in July, was chased home by Toby Allen, who finished a couple of seconds down, while Elliot Hagerty completed the podium after comfortably seeing off Oliver O'Flaherty for third spot.

With Senior Honda numbers down from recent double figure offerings, there was little to prevent reigning champion Simon Evans from sweeping the board with four wins. Monty Gorringer (twice) and Danny Griffiths led the pursuit, sharing the second place results in the heats, and it was the latter who maintained his form into the final, claiming runners-up honours despite coming home ten seconds adrift of Evans. Nicolas Rees completed the podium, ahead of veteran Paul Saunders, with Gorringer rounding out the top five.

Senior Max was once again open for someone to take advantage of pacesetter Josh Collings' absence, and it was Matthew Dowers who came out on top three times from four, only missing out in heat one, when the visiting Scott Rose claimed the honours. Rose was also third

in race two, behind stand-out novice Harry Cobbold, before taking P2 third time around, but it was David Entwistle who led the challenge to Dowers in the main event, bouncing back from a low-key start to the weekend and a DNF in heat three. Rose completed the podium, ahead of Sebastian Hutchinson.

The Max 177 class was back to just two runners this month, with

Simon Wheeler getting the better of reigning champion Wayne Stone on three occasions, only missing out in the opening heat.

The month's 'guest' championship, Formula Blue, saw its heats shared between Chris Derrick, Duncan McCleod and junior class graduate Sam Dible, before Derrick returned to the head of the field in the final, leading his fellow heat winners home in the order of their earlier success.

CRAIG LLEWELLYN

Mini Maulers are back again

LLANTWIT MAJOR Rugby Club are delighted to announce a new season of Major Mini Maulers, which is now in its third season at LMRFC.

The innovative programme, which is delivered by WRU-qualified coaches, is run by the club's mini and junior section. It aims to introduce children aged two to five to the key skills and, most importantly, the joy of playing rugby.

The sessions are on Sundays for children aged two and three at 10am, followed by a session for four and five-year-olds at 11am.

There will be an opportunity for parents to register their children for the coming season before the sessions.

The club run Mini

Maulers on a purely non-commercial basis. There are no session charges, and the club offer a junior membership to Mini Maulers for £20 for the season.

The Mini Mauler programme is designed to allow children to enjoy an early introduction to rugby in a fun and safe environment with age appropriate equipment. It allows them to develop the key skills of rugby; passing, running, catching and kicking.

Parents and grandparents are also encouraged to take part in the sessions. Last season we had more than 90 children registered and enjoying the sessions at Llantwit Major RFC.

For more information, contact: trocartim@btinternet.com, or 07876 567509.

Tim Jones

Kart club turn up heat in meeting

Golf vets hold fundraiser for leukaemia research

IN what has become an annual event, the veterans of St Athan Golf Club held a charity golf event in aid of Leukaemia Research Appeal for Wales.

A total of 102 golfers competed throughout the day, many coming from around south Wales.

In contrast to last year's dire weather, this year we were blessed with glorious sunshine for the whole of the day's play. The matches commenced at 7.42am with the competitors playing a four ball better ball stableford competition.

The winners were as follows: First – Mr M Hogan and Mr G Lee (St Athan), 44 points; Second – Mr C Auterson and Mr R Morgan (St Athan), 42 points; Mr T McCarthy and Mr T Wooding (Cottrell), 40 points.

There were four twos awarded – G Lee (St Athan), N Weir (St Athan), S Jennings (St Athan) and JWG Morgan (St Athan). The longest drive went to Mrs R O'Carroll (St Athan). Nearest the pin went to Mr M Whilding (St Athan) on the sixth hole.

Following the evening raffle and auction of items kindly donated by members of the veterans' captain, Mr Peter Purnell, presented a cheque for £2,000 to Professor Christopher Fegin, head of department for Leukemia Research Wales at UHW Cardiff. He thanked everyone that took part for the very generous donation.

Sincere thanks to all the local businesses for their sponsorship in this very successful day.

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IS BMW'S HYBRID NEWCOMER SET TO TOPPLE THE CHAMPS AT LAST?

FOR the past decade or so, Toyota and Honda have reigned supreme in the world of the hybrid.

But are they set to be toppled now that the luxury market has finally embraced this technology? There are now offerings from Audi, Mercedes and BMW.

Fresh from its sponsorship of the London Olympics 2012, BMW has entrusted me with its Active Hybrid 5; a 5-series with a three-litre straight six turbo petrol engine coupled to a 54hp electric motor.

The high-performance lithium-ion battery, which resides at the back of the reasonably sized boot, is charged whenever the BMW ActiveHybrid 5 is braking, with the electric motor performing the role of a generator.

At speeds up to 37mph this 5 series uses electric power, making it pollution-free around towns. However, any incline resulting in acceleration sees the engine take charge.

The operating status of the powertrain is displayed in the instrument cluster and on the

iDrive central control unit's screen.

It's got to be one of the fastest hybrids around, reaching 60mph from standstill in just 6.4 seconds, and on to a top speed of 155mph. This means that you can overtake in places that you would never normally consider.

When the accelerator is kicked to the floor, it's like a scolded cat and there's a raspy, racing car-type note released from the exhausts.

But surely the point of a hybrid is to be super environmentally-friendly and efficient? It is, therefore, irksome to find out that it only returns 44mpg and makes me question the logic behind this vehicle.

The point, according to the German car maker, is that the ActiveHybrid 5 delivers similar performance to its 535i but has 16 per cent lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

Its engine stop-start doesn't always come on when the vehicle pulls up at the lights, though. Perhaps the comments I make on my video at testdrives.biz are a little unfair.

A fully charged elec-

MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS



The BMW ActiveHybrid 5 is challenging the best hybrids on the market.

tric motor allows the 'Beemer' to travel about three miles. It takes around five minutes to fully charge the battery from empty.

It is claimed that careful driving can actually see the BMW cover 650 miles on its 67-litre tank. Try doing that in a 535i.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the popular 5 series and, in common with most other cars on Britain's roads, and the population as a whole, the sixth generation model has grown in size.

With its purposeful nose, trademark double kidney grille and 'bling'

17-inch alloy wheels, it's certainly eye-catching.

From inside the cockpit, the distinctive, long bonnet is quite a focal point. As long as the driver has the key on them, if they lift a locked door handle, it will automatically open.

While its interior is well above average in terms of build quality, it is lacklustre and predictable – plenty of black rubber, plastic and leather. But it's nice to see strips of brushed aluminium, which break the monotony. A neat touch is the leather-topped centre armrest that splits in two when

opened. Rear occupants have a comfortable existence.

Its eight-speed Steptronic automatic gearbox is simple to use. Similar to Peugeot there is a head up display, which projects the travelling speed onto the inside of the windscreen and only the driver can see it.

One quail is that if the driver wants to check the odometer they have to make a point of leaning forward in order to peer over the steering wheel – the digital reading should be higher up.

In a £47,000 car I expect both heated and cooled front seats but only get my first wish, which is unfortunate as leather does get sticky in hot weather.

The ActiveHybrid 5 has highlighted the variety of cruise controls now available.

Generally, there are three types, let's call them gold, silver and bronze for sake of argument.

Gold sets the speed, measures the distance of the vehicle in front and reacts accordingly, braking and accelerating as appropriate thanks to clever radars – this is found in Rolls Royce, Jaguar and Volvo cars.

For silver, remove

the radars but the system still keeps the engine at the desired speed no matter what the incline – this can be found in the Skoda Fabia.

Basic bronze is for flat roads – show it a downward hill and it will gain speed, while it will lose speed travelling up it, as in the Renault Megane.

This BMW has the middle system, operated by a control at the left of the steering wheel. It can be used at speeds of 20mph and above.

Given the continual change in traffic speed, for me this system results in pins and needles in my left hand. I find the speed limiter easier to handle.

Arguably, the BMW adds a new dimension to the hybrid market; while it'll travel further on its battery than a Toyota Prius or Honda Insight and charges quicker, the overall economy figures need improving. Diesels still win hands down for those seeking frugality.

Combined economy: 44.1mpg;

Emissions: 149 g/km; Road tax: £155 a year;

0-60mph: 6.4secs; Top speed: 155mph (limited).

Battlecat wins

EVAN WILLIAMS' five-year-old Battlecat was an easy winner of the novices' hurdle at Fontwell Park on Sunday.

Well ridden by 3lb claiming jockey Adam Wedge, Battlecat, who had been runner-up in his two previous races, was prominent throughout and won by 15 lengths from Dubai Glory.

BRIAN LEE

Bryn's winner

EVERGREEN Bryn Palling, who trains at Tredodridge in the Vale, had a welcome winner when his three-year-old Gipsy Rider landed the Casino At Bet365 Handicap over six furlongs at Chepstow last Friday.

Gipsy Rider, who was ridden by Cathy Gannon, won by three quarters of a length from course specialist

Two Turtles Doves, the 9-2 favourite, in a field of 15 runners.

Bryn, who has a good record of winners at Chepstow, was saddling his first winner for more than 200 days.

Gipsy Rider was the second leg of a double for Gannon, who had earlier won on John Spawr's Croeso Mawr.

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GEM sport

WALES' WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN GETS OFF TO NIGHTMARE START

IT was hard enough when the fixtures were compiled. It was made even harder when pass master Joe Allen withdrew just before the kick-off against Belgium due to illness. It was made almost impossible as soon as James Collins was harshly dismissed on 26 minutes.

It was a strange night at the Cardiff City Stadium. Both positives and negatives reared their respective heads, but now Wales find themselves in a depressing situation of having started their campaign with two defeats.

Belgium's line-up is mightily impressive these days, but Wales' mix of the odd Premier League star and solid professional was mixing it well.

But once Collins had been dismissed for a challenge on Guillaume Gillet, the tide began to turn. It was a harsh decision given that both players' feet were off the ground. Both displayed studs when diving in for a loose ball, but as Collins was a little late, referee Stefan Johansson decided it warranted a red.

Chris Coleman's one mistake was deploying Reading's Simon Church out wide. Through the middle he can, at times, look threatening. But with the marauding Bale down one wing, Church's lack of mobility gave the team a disjointed look.

Belgium looked slick if never overly threatening in possession.

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

Axel Witsel was arguably the star of the show. He tracked everything and didn't let anyone in the Welsh midfield breathe.

Although his shooting from range left something to be desired, his eye for a pass was almost as noticeable as the afro he sports alongside Marouane Fellaini.

Belgium went ahead just before half-time when a corner routine practiced and executed many times over the years wasn't picked up by the Welsh defence. Dries Mertens floated the ball in to the near post where Vincent Kompany peeled away from Darcy Blake and used his strength to hold the Palace player at bay while he nodded home.

From then, their confidence grew and Boaz Myhill became a very busy man, with Wales offering very little up front despite a dogged and professional display from the defence and midfield.

Belgium sealed the win with eight minutes left. It was another soft free kick given by the Swedish referee, and Blake looked stunned. But there was nothing controversial about the strike from Jan Vertonghen, as Spurs' new star walloped the ball in to the far corner after being teed up.

It completed an enjoyable evening for the rowdy Belgian support who had travelled in their numbers and had been in fine voice throughout. They showed the quiet and sporadic Welsh support how it should be done, and drove home just how badly the FAW need to improve crowds.

Things got worse for Coleman's side in Serbia on Tuesday, as an underpar performance saw Wales go down 6-1.

Manchester City defender Aleksander Kolarov put the home side ahead with a free-kick, before the same player left a few tacklers in his wake before squaring for Zoran Tomic to make it 2-0.

Gareth Bale reduced the deficit with a trademark free-kick before Serbia ran riot, adding strikes from Filip Duricic, Dusan Tadic, Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic and Miralem Sulejmani.

The result leaves Wales' hopes of qualifying for a major tournament once again in tatters, and Coleman with a lot to do to raise morale before Scotland visit Cardiff next month.

Good away win for Bridgend Athletic

WHITLAND kicked off the game into a slight breeze in the Athletic's favour.

The Athletic were quickly onto the attack. Rhys Ward-Jones made a break and passed to Aled Thomas, who was prevented from scoring by a last-ditch tackle.

However, Whitland were penalised for hands in the ruck. Steve Lewis kicked the resultant penalty.

The Athletic kept up the pressure and this time a clean break through the middle by

WHITLAND 16
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 23

Steve Lewis led to a try in the corner by Michael Hathaway, which was not converted.

The next score went to Whitland. The Athletic were caught offside at a ruck and John Thomas stepped up and kicked the penalty.

Whitland were trying to put pressure on the Athletic, but good tackling by forwards and backs kept them at bay. From one such attack, the Athletic forwards

turned the ball over.

The ball was spun to Dan Apsee, who passed the ball onto Rod Apsee, who put Michael Hathaway into space with a second row to beat.

He achieved this with an arcing run outside the Whitland player, and he was able to score under the posts. The try was converted by Steve Lewis.

The Athletic continued to pressure the Whitland line but Whitland managed to turn the ball over.

However, a crunching tackle by Lyndsey McCausland halted the move, and Whitland were penalised for holding on.

Steve Lewis kicked the penalty to take the score to 18-3 to the Athletic at half-time.

The Athletic kicked off the second half, but it was Whitland who built up a head of steam using their big forwards to drive at the Athletic's defence.

During this period, the Athletic conceded two penalties which were converted by John Thomas to reduce the deficit to 18-9.

Eventually, the Athletic were able to lift the siege and a break from a ruck was carried on by Rhys Ward-Jones, who when tackled on the 22, quickly recycled to Dan Apsee, who made ground towards the line.

His pass to Steve Lewis was knocked back

towards the Whitland line by a defender, and Michael Hathaway grounded the ball to claim his hat-trick try, which was not converted, and extended the Athletic's lead to 23-9.

The final score of the game came in the final minute. A break upfield by Whitland saw them recycle the ball out to the wing for Tom Jones to score in the corner.

John Thomas converted to give the Athletic their first win in the new championship by 23-16.

The Athletic locks Griff Davies and Jonathon Stoker were awarded joint men of the match.

The whole pack played well against a much heavier Whitland eight, with the back row of Dan Apsee, Stuart Nation and Mathew Hillman tackling extremely well throughout. The front row of Rod Apsee, Simon Mustoe, Wayne Fookes and replacement Tom Evans, held their own in the set pieces.

Hat-trick centre Michael Hathaway was outstanding in his support work, with full back Rhys Jones and outside half Steven Lewis making a number of line breaks.

This Saturday, the Athletic play their first championship game at home against opponents Beddau from the old Division One East.



KENFIG HILL visited Roseland Road for the first time in ten years and took part in a fast and furious game against Waunarlwydd.

Waunarlwydd opened the scoring just after the kick off with a penalty by outside half Josh Hammett, Kenfig Hill outside half replied almost immediately with a well struck penalty.

The home side then spun the ball from a scum and right winger Andrew Rees-Spewart crossed the line in the corner. Hammett then added a further penalty.

The home side then had two players yellow carded within thirty seconds of each other but the Mules were unable to take advantage as the Waun were able to shut the game down.

When the Waun were back to full strength they scored a try through number 8 Nathan Hart.

Waunarlwydd added two further penalties through Hammett before half time.

Kenfig Hill started the second half with a bang scoring a try through captain Chris Tossell who used his strength and guile to cross the line to finish off a slick move by the visiting backs, Giles converting.

More pressure by Kenfig Hill saw left winger Tylon Mafi

sprint past the home defence to score in the corner, Giles kicking the long range conversion.

At this point all the pressure was coming from Kenfig Hill but Waun held on and Rees-Spewart scored with two breaks against the run of play. Kenfig Hill put on more pressure but some aimless kicking gave the initiative to the home side.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 17 Waunarlwydd 32.

Steve Gillard gave another outstanding performance and was named by the referee as the Kenfig Hill man of the match. Outside half Nicky Giles showed some touches of class after suffering a series of injuries last season, the Kenfig Hill pack was again solid and there was a promising debut at full back for Lewis Morgan.

KENFIG HILL 2ND XV V BEDWAS 2ND XV

A powerful Bedwas outfit proved too strong for a spirited Mules display.

Bedwas turned up at Croft Coch with a strong line up but no props and asked for passive scrums from the outset. The Mules agreed to this request but elected to play with their chosen front five.

In hindsight, it would have been better to fill the front row with the backrow players who

Kenfig pipped by 'Waun'

LEFT: Lewis David in action.

were available on the bench as no competitive scrummaging was needed during the game.

The first half was dominated by Bedwas who defended resolutely and made the most of every opportunity that came their way, often capitalising on mistakes from the Mules backline.

Bedwas scored 40 unanswered points in the first half and it was obvious the Mules had to cut out their mistakes and start taking the game to Bedwas in the second half.

This tactic worked and the Mules outscored Bedwas 12 to 5 with strong running from forwards Dan Jones,

Matthew Bater and Sam Richards.

The Mules tries were scored by Dan Jones and Owen Davies, one of which was converted by coach Mark Jones making a cameo second half appearance.

Man of the match went to youth wing Adam Lloyd who gave a thoroughly committed display in attack and defence.

Bedwas deserved their victory but the Mules must learn to cut out their basic mistakes and start playing from the first whistle in order to compete at this level.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 29

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